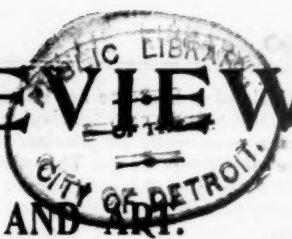


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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK . . .	189	MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES (continued):		CORRESPONDENCE (continued):	
LEADING ARTICLES:		“The Cassilis Engagement.” By Max Beerbohm	199	Whiskey and Insanity. By one of the Select Committee on British and Foreign Spirits	204
The Prologue to Parliament . . .	192	Gannets Fishing. By W. H. Hudson . . .	200	Robbing Burton to Reward Speke. By Walter Phelps Dodge	205
Signs of the Second Douma . . .	193	Chess: The World's Championship Match	201	Captain John Smith's Descendants . . .	205
The New Hebrides Warning . . .	194	VERSE:		The Unemployed and Emigration. By H. G. Hills	205
SPECIAL ARTICLES:		Propertius i. 21. By C. D. Fisher . . .	201	REVIEWS:	
Inside the House	195	CORRESPONDENCE:		Lord Acton's Lectures	205
Cavalry Jottings—I.	197	Copyright and Copy-wrong. By John Murray and George Routledge and Sons	202	Verse and its Public	206
THE CITY	196	Sculpture at the International. By W. Rothenstein	204	“The Spouseless Adriatic”	207
INSURANCE:		Christianity in France. By J. Napier Brodhead	204	Mephistopheles' Court	208
More Amalgamations	197			NOVELS	209
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES:				NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS	209
English Masters at Burlington House. By Laurence Binyon	198			THEOLOGY	210

We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The opening scenes of what Radicals are trying to think of as the dissolution of the House of Lords have looked much more like its Jubilee. Nothing could be more ludicrously unlike a menace against the House of Lords than the pageant at Westminster on Tuesday; so stately—beautiful—above all so constitutionally correct. It is the kind of scene which must send all the courage of a revolutionary Radical into his boots. The issues may have a serious side, but how can the Government expect its opponents to be downcast and its friends elate when it is forced to open with a scene like this? This was not the way they broke down the Bastille and slew its keeper; or the way in which Cromwell rushed in “as a fire-flood” on places that resisted him. It is said that the Prime Minister, even through the King's Speech read by Lord Loreburn on his knee, has flung down the gauntlet. If so, it is but a kid glove and never covered an iron hand.

One does not expect very much from a King's Speech. Its form, as Cobbett showed long ago, is very far from literary, and its substance has been discounted. The allusion this year to differences between Lords and Commons is an unusual feature—it is very fortunate that it is unusual—and had better have been left out. The Crown ought not to be dragged into controversies of this nature. The omission of all reference to education in England shows that the Government have abandoned the idea of returning to the charge. No Education Bill is to be introduced. It is unfortunate that no reference was made to the coming Colonial Conference. This is no matter of precedent, as the Prime Minister seems to regard it, but of present practical significance. The Conference has been fixed and looked forward to for a long time throughout the

Empire, and the Colonies to be represented will resent the King's Speech ignoring it.

Lord Lansdowne was very happy in his treatment of the Lords and Commons question. The tag from Mr. Bryce, who had just fired a last shot on this side at the Lords, was quite delightful. “The object”, according to Mr. Bryce, “of having two Chambers is to secure, not that things shall always work smoothly between them, but that they shall frequently differ and provide the means of correcting such errors as either may commit”. Lord Lansdowne summed up the matter very well when he said that those who would destroy the revising power of the Lords would not get their way, because the people knew that whatever danger is to be apprehended from an unreformed House of Lords, it is nothing like the danger to be apprehended from an uncontrolled House of Commons. Meantime the Government are merely “considering” what they will do to the wicked peers. Apparently there is no idea of meddling with the internal constitution of the Upper House, but only with its relations with the Lower House. If the Government waste their time hammering away at the Lords, they cannot do much mischief, for they will not do anything.

The Government made a poor show in the Commons on the first night. No one on their side was any match for Mr. Balfour. They did not come off well under any head—Lords, Home Rule, the postponement of social reform to constitutional agitation—but on the New Hebrides convention they had “a real bad time”. Mr. Churchill, who got up to put his side in better spirits, made things much worse by his remark that if there were inconsistency in the standards of labour set up in the New Hebrides and the standard arrived at in South Africa it would not involve insincerity. This of course was a confession. Mr. Lyttelton drove the matter home. This is not the last Mr. Churchill and the other denouncers of Chinese labour will hear of the Government's approval of an indentured labour ordinance which allows children of twelve, boys and girls alike, to be recruited, to work from sunrise to sunset, with only an hour off, for ten shillings a month. Trade unionists will want to know something about this.

In Ireland it is a case not so much of the Survival of the Fittest: it is the Survival of the Evicted. This law was once more emphasised by the debate in the House of Commons on Thursday. Mr. Birrell made his bow, almost his obeisance, as Chief Secretary, faithfully promising the delighted Nationalist party that by May the whole of the applications of the evicted tenants should be adjudicated on. A general reinstatement is to be hastened forward as, it would appear, Mr. Bryce failed to hasten it. Mr. Long spoke a generous word or two in favour of the policy, and the agreement was precise and complete. Mr. Birrell announced in his speech that he would not do away with Lord Clanricarde as a landlord; he only proposes to take from him the management of his estates.

Parliament opens and the Suffragette season with it. The newest demonstration almost reached the dignity of a riot. There are few novel features but there are greater numbers. Not only the House of Commons police but bodies of horse had to be called out to meet the emergency. At last some of the ladies whose object in political life was to be arrested have been arrested, and the Metropolitan dungeons have closed upon more martyrs for the suffrage. And for all this the Government is responsible; for Woman's Suffrage was not mentioned in the King's Speech. We owe a debt of gratitude to the women who are not yet suffragettes. Suppose the anti-shrieking sisterhood began to shriek against the shriekers? What a state London would be in. Happily their very principles keep them on the domestic hearth; and we are spared the conflict of feminine bands. But if they once begin to demonstrate their contempt in public, women will have to be given the vote to put an end to a greater nuisance.

Mr. Asquith has not much time for preparing his first instalment of an old age pension scheme. He is to have it ready with his Budget or the Labour party will resist all remission of taxation. Mr. Burns assured Mr. Shackleton that the Government would take the matter up "when means and time allowed", but "before a beginning was made he proposed to collect a considerable amount of statistical information". Just so. The fact is the Government has not the slightest notion what to do about it. It was forgotten in the King's Speech: and when they are reminded Mr. Asquith has no more than negatives about it, though nothing "ought to be dearer to the heart of a politician". The only definite idea he had was that whatever is done must be consistent with the present fiscal system. There is the crux. Mr. Asquith's talk of economies and the readjustments of taxation he imagines, only serves to make everything a Liberal Government can say about old age pensions utterly unreal.

There has evidently been a good deal of manœuvring going on in the Labour party over the question of woman's suffrage. At the Belfast Labour Conference a fortnight ago Mr. Keir Hardie distinctly stated that, if the vote of the Conference in favour of universal suffrage was held to bind him in the House of Commons, he might have to resign the leadership of the party. It seemed a blow aimed at him as a not sufficiently advanced suffraget in supporting women's voting on the same terms as men's. On the day of Parliament meeting, however, the Labour party re-elected Mr. Keir Hardie as its leader, with an understanding as to woman's suffrage. The party will not ballot for a Bill, and if one is introduced its members are to be free to vote as they think fit. This step seems to be taken more for the sake of the party than for the woman's suffrage cause, and Mr. Keir Hardie's prestige as the woman's champion must be a little tarnished.

The Attorney-General is very lucky. His almost sanguinary speech had hardly begun to cause stir and talk before Parliament assembled, and the first buzz of the Session drowned his awful or his ridiculous outcry. It aborted. Still there has been a certain amount of comment, more amused perhaps than amazed, about it during the week. It will undoubtedly go down as one

of the curiosities of party history. It should be known as the Revolution Speech. We should have thought that the Attorney-General was the last man in England to preach the sacred right of insurrection, yet there is his speech of fiery menace and he cannot get away from it. Sir John Lawson Walton is quite the Camille Desmoulins of the uprising against the House of Lords. We seem to see him leaping on to the plinth of the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, and urging the seething and maddened mob beneath to take red cockades. But we hope it will never be so, for Camille had a bad end.

Polling will take place in the Transvaal on Wednesday next; the campaign is waxing very hot. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's meetings in Pretoria arouse an enthusiasm which is encouraging, though the chances of Progressive success are not so great as could be wished. He takes his stand on equal rights for every section of the community, and ridicules the main plank in the Boer platform, that the issue is between the people and the capitalists. That the Boers should be eager to "get even" with the magnates is natural, seeing that they have failed to arrange terms with the capitalists which would give them both funds and office. The capitalist knows his Boer. Mr. J. B. Robinson denies Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's statement that he provided Mr. Kruger with £200,000 just before the war when no one else would lend the Government money. The British capitalist cannot be expected to play the part of the fly to the Boer spider whilst the experience of the nineties is remembered.

Of the many assurances given by the Boer leaders that they will do nothing to undo the Vereeniging settlement the most plausible is that of General Botha. "At Vereeniging I signed the treaty of peace. I then solemnly accepted what is so dear to you—your King and your flag. They are now our King and our flag." He instanced his action during the war as proof that he would be no party to any policy likely to involve serious injury to the mining enterprise. What Boer generals did at a time when they thought the mines would be the property of a Boer state and what Boer politicians may do when the mines cannot be theirs but they can harry the mineowners are very different things. Nor does it seem to occur to General Botha or Mr. Smuts or anyone else that if their present professions are genuine, their agitation against Chinese labour is proved to have been humbug. Of course General Botha speaks in terms of warm approval of the Liberals. A party which takes so little heed of British sentiment in South Africa is certainly entitled at least to Boer gratitude.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier seems to think he has effectually disposed of the idea of British fiscal union when he says that it could only be brought about by free trade within the Empire. That was his answer to Colonel Hughes' suggestion in the Canadian Parliament that the time is ripe for a full partnership between Great Britain and her colonies. Not apparently, in Sir Wilfrid's view, until there is trouble between Canada and the Mother Country similar to that of forty years ago can we hope for any change in present policy. Mr. Borden, the Opposition leader, had not a very difficult task in showing the absurdity of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's talk of free trade whilst his Government is actually engaged in drawing up a protectionist tariff. Would Canada now endorse the Premier's famous assertion that she wants no preference in the British market? At any rate, her whole tariff policy is based on reciprocity with the rest of the Empire.

The Amir's visit to India has so far been an unqualified success. His dignified and cordial reception has both satisfied his claims to be treated as an independent sovereign and has placed him entirely at his ease. Instead of being tied up to constant ceremonial by a rigid programme and snowed under by official routine, he has after the preliminary ceremonies of State been left free to do and see what he pleased.

He has been received and welcomed by all classes with the friendliness due to his courteous personality and the distinction befitting his high rank. Left free to enjoy himself in the relaxations which please him most, and to seize the advantages which his first experience of foreign travel have afforded, he has recognised and appreciated that freedom and with obvious sincerity has declared that he has found himself among friends in a friendly country. All this promises well for his future relations with the Indian Government.

Correspondence between Prince von Bülow and General Keim, the manager of the Navy League, not intended for publication, has been published by a Bavarian paper and is making great stir in Germany. It appears that the Navy League has been subsidised by the Chancellor to promote candidates approved by the League, and in the correspondence General Keim has expressed opinions as to the Conservatives and the Centre which have equally displeased both parties. Wishing to secure the support of the Liberals and Radicals, he derided the Conservative stiffness in dealing with them. He spoke of arousing the "Fervor Protestantism" of these parties against the Centre, and even of supporting Socialist against Centre candidates. Part of the subsidy was used in vastly distributing election "literature" against Herr Erzberger, the most democratic of the Centre leaders. As the Navy League passed as non-party and many members of the Centre belong to it, all whose knuckles have been rapped are incensed against it and the Chancellor; and Liberals and Radicals for their comfort are told they have been fooled.

M. de Martens the distinguished Russian jurist, who is now in London on the special mission from the Tsar apropos of the Hague Conference in June, has made a statement which might well have been foreseen. Germany, Russia and France, he says, all hold that the question of disarmament is not yet ripe for discussion, and that, even the limitation of armaments not being a practical question, no good can come from its discussion. Probably this is the reason why the United States make a flourish of intending to introduce the proposal into the agenda of the Conference. Our Government too is supposed to be equally capable of doing the same, but we hope it will not do anything so foolish. It would be waste of time to discuss such a proposition. No Power would be bound by a majority of votes, and with three dissentients like Germany, France and Russia the whole affair would simply be a fiasco. Even the discussion as to the prevention of war by international inquiry, mediation, or arbitration will probably not come to much. The better definition of the respective rights of belligerents and neutrals is a more practical matter which the war between Russia and Japan showed to be necessary; but Great Britain must be cautious about weakening rights which might be more useful to her than to some of her neighbours.

Mr. George Meredith's birthday—not his eightieth, as the papers would have it—cannot be passed by. Everyone who cares for his land's language will stop to salute Mr. Meredith, in natural gratitude for the wealth of brilliant ideas and amazing felicities of phrase he has showered upon his countrymen. Mr. Meredith has developed capabilities in our language hardly dreamt of and, if dreamt, never realised before. When an easy and obvious way to fame and fortune was open to him, he chose the difficult way which was extremely likely to miss both. Happily for his generation's good report, reward, though late in coming, has not missed him.

An amazing raid was made early on Tuesday morning on Mr. Charles Wertheimer's house in Norfolk Street. Mr. Wertheimer and his servants were roused by a general ringing of the alarm bells, only to find that the burglars had decamped with some fifty thousand pounds' worth of works of art. Gainsborough's "Nancy Parsons" and Reynolds' "The Hon. Mrs. Yorke" and "Mrs. Froude" had been hacked from their frames, and a great sweep had been made of caskets,

snuffboxes, gold beakers, and jewelled miniatures. It is a "scoop" that has no parallel in the records of burglary. One almost wonders that the ruffians did not, to complete their night's work, go down to S. Stephen's and seize the Oliver Cromwell statue which Mr. Wertheimer gave to the nation. The burglars, however, left something in exchange which may aid the police—some greasy finger stalls, a box of menthol snuff, and a knife. It seems strange that accomplished villains should so often leave possible clues of this nature; but detectives very well know that the burglar, with rare exceptions, works by no means coolly; he is in reality not cool but hot with fear and even fluster to get away.

Common sense has prevailed at last in the Music Hall Strike, and the matter having been brought before the Conciliation Board it has been referred to Mr. G. R. Askwith. He will have power to dispose of the whole of the questions in dispute between the managers and the performers. If he fails in satisfying all the parties we hope at any rate he will make such a settlement as will send them back to work again, and so get rid of what has already become a bore to the public.

Was it an earthquake? That seems to have been the question put by thousands of people startled out of their sleep in the early hours of Monday morning by the remarkable explosion at Woolwich Arsenal. For ten or twelve miles round houses were shaken so violently that with recent events in other parts of the world fresh in memory the first impression was only natural. In the immediate vicinity the effects were certainly not to be distinguished from those of an earthquake. It is appalling even to think what the consequences might have been had the explosion occurred a few hours later when business was in full swing. As it was, happily not a single life was lost. But the damage to property has been great and much misery is inevitable to hundreds thrown out of employment. The Government have promptly and quite properly promised to make good the actual amount of the damage done.

A curious railway case was decided at Bangor on Tuesday. A passenger bought a golf ticket from Chester to Llanfairfechan, but did not play at Llanfairfechan, as the railway authorities, who watched the links, discovered. But he explained that he played golf elsewhere, and so he was acquitted. This is rather a disquieting incident for players whose handicap is twenty-four and who, do all they will, cannot win a monthly medal. Hundreds, thousands, of such performers travel with golf tickets, and it is quite notorious that they very often do not "play golf". They go round the links, but this is not playing golf. A new terror will be added to golf if the railway companies are going to send men round the links to shadow performers who have travelled with golf tickets. We really think the railway officials could find better ways than this of spending their time.

Two cases are now familiar to the public which plainly show the need for a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Bill now in Parliament has dragged on from session to session, and these cases ought to quicken it. Lewis, who has been liberated, must await the result of the trial of two other persons, and has no way of independently establishing the alleged perjury of the witness against him on his trial. Mr. Edalji was in the same position; and though he has been liberated too, it seemed as though the Home Office would have left him hanging in the air unless Sir Conan Doyle had written up his case and made investigation not to be denied. Now there is to be an inquiry similar to that in the Beck case. It is not creditable that these extra-judicial Courts of Criminal Appeal should be appointed as a privilege instead of there being a regular Court in the judicial system. The Home Office procedure is unsatisfactory and the Courts should have the right of reviewing their own verdicts and sentences. The time has come for this. It would be better to restrict the excessive right of appeal in the Civil Courts rather than there should be no right of appeal in the Criminal.

Exclusion of women from the court and the threat to prosecute newspapers that publish obscene matter have been two striking incidents of the remarkable Thaw trial. The defence has resumed its evidence on the plea of insanity, and a very different appearance has been put upon it by Mr. Delmas' examination of Dr. Wagner and Dr. Evans. These doctors under Mr. Delmas' able guidance have testified to Thaw's insanity from the facts of his family history and his personal characteristics. Mr. Delmas is said to have put an hypothetical question of two thousand words to Dr. Wagner, summarising the facts, whereupon Dr. Wagner answered that these being applied to the prisoner showed he was insane at the time and did not know right from wrong, but had now passed through the "nerve storm". These witnesses have not yet been cross-examined; but they are of a different calibre from the unfortunate doctor who was first placed in the box.

Sooner or later the whole question of literary copyright will have to be reconsidered by Parliament. We have never been quite clear why a man should not be able effectively to leave his copyright in his will, as he leaves his money or his personal effects. His money and furniture do not become public property forty years after they have been acquired and seven years after his death: why then should his literary property? "For the public good" is of course an answer that suggests itself. Is it always for the public good? Certainly we are witnessing at the present time cases where it is not for the public good. But even ruling out such cases, that is rather a formidable line of argument to take. Once accept it, and you cannot make it a logical limit.

Meanwhile what is needed to prevent abuses is some such arrangement as the House of Lords proposed in 1900. Let the term of copyright be for life and a long term of years. The House of Lords proposed thirty years as this term; this at any rate would be much fairer than the present system, and there would be no inducements to publish early and defective editions. There are men of letters in the Cabinet and more in the Ministerial ranks outside the Government: they should bring in such a measure. Why does not Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who did such good work for musical copyright, do the same for literature? On this subject we wish to direct attention to Mr. John Murray's admirable letter printed in another column.

Professor Pelham, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, who died on Tuesday last, was an important figure in academic circles, though not a great personality as some college heads have been, Jowett or Brodrick of Merton, for instance. But to all Oxford men he is a familiar name. Scholars know what a grasp he had of ancient history, especially Roman; but his influence did not end with the world of scholars strictly so-called. Mr. Pelham had a very deep sense of the extreme value of the study of Greek and Roman history and literature as mental training. He impressed this sense on the men who attended his lectures. He was not a brilliant lecturer, nor an attractive one, but he made his meaning extremely clear, and spoke with decision. We much regret his loss; in these days a great humanist can ill be spared.

Sir William Russell, who died on Sunday, was the last of the very notable war correspondents, as he was the first. If he had not quite the hardness and the dare-devil love of adventure of Archibald Forbes, he had the better pen and brain. His letters to the "Times" on the Crimea can still be read with some pleasure and profit, for Russell's opinions, as well as his information, were worth following. He will scarcely be known however for any merit in pure literature, though he published a book or two of some note.

Mr. Moberly Bell and Mr. Hooper, we observe, interviewed as to the report we mentioned last week of their leaving the "Times" to devote themselves wholly to the Book Club, denied it; they would!

THE PROLOGUE TO PARLIAMENT.

ALL the honours of the first night of the Session belong to Mr. Balfour, who has not been in such good form for a long time. The new members of the new Parliament were very unfavourably impressed by Mr. Balfour's first appearance at the beginning of last Session. Is it possible, they asked one another, that this pale, stumbling chopper of logic can be the great Arthur Balfour? As the Session wore on, and Mr. Balfour, almost single-handed, fought the Education Bill with imperturbable temper, with unrivalled knowledge of detail, and with an intellectual distinction that never deserts him, these new members began to recognise that no man wins a great parliamentary reputation without the possession of some extraordinary quality. On Tuesday night it is not too much to say that the Leader of the Opposition fairly conquered a House of Commons composed of an overwhelming proportion of his political opponents. Nothing could have been better than Mr. Balfour's chaff of the passage in the King's Speech about the House of Lords, and the Attorney-General's "unpremeditated meditations" on the same subject at Leeds. "Serious differences of opinion" have undoubtedly arisen between the two Houses of Parliament, and always will arise, so long as we have a bi-cameral Constitution, in which each chamber is composed of English gentlemen, who are accustomed to say what they think, and vote according to their convictions. If you strengthen the composition of the second chamber, the friction, as Mr. Balfour pointed out, is likely to be greater, not less. But the Prime Minister, in following Mr. Balfour, gave us to understand that the Government are not considering any alteration of the composition of the House of Lords, but a "readjustment of the relations" between that body and the House of Commons. This is a clever move on the part of the Government, as any attempt by the House of Commons to change the composition of the House of Lords would at once place the former body in a ludicrously false position. We take it therefore that the Government are considering how the power of the House of Lords to revise and reject Bills can be limited. This of course is quite as much a revolution as any change in the structure of the House of Lords, because by the British Constitution the two Houses of Parliament have co-ordinate authority, except with regard to money Bills. It is not that our modern Robespierres shrink from a revolution, or are frightened by the word—that is not the difficulty—as our mild and amiable Attorney-General has shown us. The rub is that it is impossible to carry a fundamental change of the Constitution into law without an appeal to the country. And what His Majesty's Government are now most seriously "considering", we have little doubt, is whether they have anything like "a case" against the House of Lords with which to go to the constituencies, say, in the autumn. What is the case against the Lords? What crimes have they committed? They rejected the Plural Voters Bill, and they amended the Education Bill. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had the hardihood to describe these two Bills as "measures which had been demanded by the country and elaborated with infinite pains by this House". The Plural Voters Bill was a disfranchising Bill, which had certainly not been demanded by the country, where measures of disfranchisement are never popular with either party. So far was it from being "elaborated with infinite pains" that it received hardly any but the curtest and most contemptuous discussion by the Government, who placed its conduct in the hands of one of the youngest members of the Ministry not in the Cabinet, and that its clauses were so carelessly drafted as to make them absolutely unworkable. Lord Courtney, the candid friend of the Government that made him a peer, is its most merciless critic! Even Mr. Harcourt did not take his Bill seriously. No wonder that the House of Lords rejected it, upon the advice of Lord Lansdowne, as a cynical attempt to manipulate the machinery of the Constitution for the lowest party purposes. As for the Education Bill, the House of Commons rejected the Lords' amendments, many of them proposed by Lord Crewe, without discussion: so

that the burthen of proof is on the Government to show that the action of the House of Commons was right. Had the majority of the peers been inclined to play a really cynical and Machiavellian game, they would have passed the Education Bill "tel quel", for though it would not have settled the education question, it would most effectually have settled the Liberal party. We only hope that the Government will appeal to the electors against the House of Lords on the Plural Voters Bill and the Education Bill.

When he turned to the Irish Home Rule Bill, Mr. Balfour had little difficulty in impaling the Prime Minister upon the horns of a now familiar dilemma. If the Home Rule Bill preserves more than the technical supremacy of the Imperial Parliament it will not be acceptable to the Irish Nationalists, as Mr. Redmond was not slow to assert. If it gives away the supremacy of the British Parliament, it will be Gladstone's Home Rule over again, which will not be acceptable to the British electors. If the measure be offered humbly to the Irish as an instalment, it must either be a half-way house to nothing, or to Irish independence. Very happy were Mr. Balfour's rallying compliments to Mr. Birrell on his promotion. "I do not know whether he cheerfully exchanges the problem of bringing in an Education Bill with the doubtful support of the Non-conformists for the other task of bringing in a Devolution Bill with the doubtful support of the Nationalists." It is certainly hard on so accomplished a parliamentarian as Mr. Birrell that he should be twice condemned to the task of "cutting blocks with a razor". We are afraid that his Home Rule Bill will be no more successful than his Education Bill—Mr. Walter Long will see to that. The surprise of the debate was the unexpectedly prominent part which was played in it by the New Hebrides Convention. Here the Leader of the Opposition had the advantage of having read the Blue-book of which the Prime Minister was obliged to confess his ignorance. For many years the New Hebrides have been in a state of chaotic misgovernment, which was a scandal and a nuisance, particularly to Australia and New Zealand. Instead of boldly annexing these islands, the late Government drifted into a kind of agreement with France for the establishment of a joint protectorate. When the present Government came into office last year, they found a conference in progress between representatives of the British and French Foreign Offices for a draft convention, subject to ratification by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. The Convention contained certain provisions with regard to indentured Kanaka labour, as to which the adverse opinions of New Zealand and Australia had long been known to our Colonial Office. Nevertheless the Convention was signed, and our colonies informed that the Imperial Government had done the best it could, and that the colonies must make the best of the business, or allow the New Hebrides to relapse into anarchy. This was not calculated to please Australia and New Zealand, which have excluded indentured Kanaka labour from their own shores. But the beauty of the thing is that the Government, which ran the risk of offending the colonies in order to please France by including the provisions for indentured labour, is composed of politicians who won their present position by denouncing the late Government for the Chinese Labour ordinance. There are all the familiar features of indentured labour; a fixed term of labour at a fixed wage; compulsory repatriation at the end of the term; penalties, including imprisonment, for breach of contract in refusing to work, &c. We do not say that these regulations are wrong when applied to semi-savage coloured labourers, though there is something odious in their application to children of twelve of both sexes. But we do say that for the present Government to sign a Convention containing such provisions at the very moment when they were denouncing the Conservatives and risking a quarrel with the Transvaal over the milder regulations of the Chinese labour ordinance is a depth of hypocrisy to which no British Ministry ever sank before. There is only one consolation to be drawn from this degrading and discreditable performance, which Mr. Balfour described as "the most amazing transaction in modern

history", namely, that the Government has divested itself of the moral power to veto any legislation which the new Transvaal assembly may pass on the subject of Chinese labour. All that Sir Edward Grey could say in defence of this Convention was that it was "the best arrangement that could be made in the circumstances". We never knew a piece of rascality that did not admit of a similar apology.

There are several other measures mentioned in the King's Speech, which Mr. Balfour wittily called "a catalogue of aspirations". There is to be a licensing Bill, to regulate further the sale of intoxicating liquors, an eight hours' day for miners, a Bill for the valuation of land in England (whatever that may mean) and for dealing with small holdings, a similar Bill for Scotland, a Bill for the better housing of the working classes, and a Bill dealing with the Army. The brewing trade is in such a bad way at present that any further interference by the State must spell ruin. Licensing Bills are about the most dangerous which a Government can handle, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone will require all the assistance which Mr. Herbert Samuel can give him to avoid the shoals of committee. What the English and Scotch land Bills may have in store for the unfortunate landlords it is impossible at present to say. But the whole programme was well characterised by Mr. Balfour when he said it begins with an attack upon the House of Lords and it ends with the better housing of the poor. Political revolution is much more exciting than social reform; and the Radicals never can resist the temptation of trying so to alter the machinery of the Constitution as to give themselves a permanent predominance. Happily the majority of Britons have no stomach for political revolution. Hunting ancient institutions and privileged classes is excellent sport for members of Parliament. But the amusement is not shared by the sober and reflective portion of the community; and if the Government really intends to pursue its policy of dealing with the House of Lords, we are in for another barren Session. After two or three years of this kind of thing, the question will arise, Whose cup is full?

SIGNS OF THE SECOND DOUMA.

THE reports of the elections of delegates for the Russian Douma are so contradictory in purport and so confusing in detail that an accurate analysis of the result is almost impossible. Here are a few of the more prominent factions that figure in the polling returns telegraphed daily during a general election taking place in a country extending over a seventh part of the globe—the Party of the Right, the Moderates, the Left, the Toil groups, the Octobrists, the Constitutional Democrats, the Social Democrats, other Socialists, the Zionists, Poles, and some undefined and colourless groups. Then there is the latest product of civilisation, a party who call themselves Amorphists, and who, being dissatisfied with the Terrorists' pusillanimous methods of destruction of life and property, desire to destroy everything and everybody. They are against law; but they are against Anarchy also. One of the rules of this party is, we are told, that nobody who belongs to it may be more than fifteen years old, and another rule is that the party have no rules. Each of the antagonistic sections of these various groups of politicians has its own way of classifying the election returns. The Radicals and Liberals condemn, as each polling result is made known, the Government's method of classification, and even accuse opposing sections allied to their own groups of underhand shuffling of the electoral returns. The "Slovo"—which, by the way, is erroneously quoted as expressing the views of Count Witte on the political situation—declares that the descriptions of the polling results hitherto received are a riddle both for the Government and for the political parties, and that the Government itself has no faith in the official designations "Monarchists", "Moderates", and such-like, given to different candidates. As for the repeated outcry of the Radical press in Russia about the "extraordinary part" the Government is playing in the electoral campaign, which has been re-echoed of course in

this country, it appears to be only what the Governments of other leading Continental States have always done; and none more unconscionably than Russia's ally. The classification and description of the principal groups adopted in official despatches appear to be as follows: the Monarchists are electors belonging to the popular Orthodox Monarchical party, led by V. A. Gringmuth on the extreme Right. By Moderates are designated electors that belong to parties allied with the Orthodox Monarchical party as well as with the "Octobrists" (the party of the 17/30 October, pledged to uphold the principle of the Tsar's Rescript of that date, granting the Constitution and the Douma). The Centre consists of the parties which stand more to the Right of the Party of Peaceful Regeneration (the Right of the split Constitutional Democrats led by Count Heyden).

In comparing the account of last year's peasant polling results with the present, one particularly striking contrast is apparent. Among their elected representatives on this occasion we observe in many instances a greatly increased proportion of communal elders and bailiffs, and other village officials of the peasants' own class and selection. Last year the telegraphic reports from the village polling centres invariably ended with some such phrase as "Number of village officials chosen very insignificant". Rank outsiders, such as newspaper correspondents, teachers, district scribes and various "bagmen", secured election as alleged chosen delegates of the peasants. The Orel and Kalouga provinces particularly distinguished themselves in this wise; whereas this year we have quite another aspect of affairs. The Orel province despatches give of the 394 representatives 97, or about 25 per cent., as peasant officials of the village commune. In Kalouga, of the 397 chosen 108, or about 27 per cent., are peasants of the same category as those of Orel. Outsiders are this time in rare minorities. Of this class of agrarian electors, the two above-mentioned provinces have this year returned only 4 per cent. and 1½ per cent. respectively of the full complement. The fact is the peasant is evidently disillusioned by the erratic conduct of his last year's monitors. The failure of the late Douma to do anything for him; the broken broadcast promises of expropriation of land for his benefit; the disastrous consequences to him of taking the law into his own hands by pillage and incendiarism, have caused the mouzhik to lose faith in his friends. On the other hand, a long list of vital reforms introduced by the Stolypin Government and now in force, such as the appointment of land settlement committees and the conversion of a number of peasants into owners of free plots, must have produced a salutary impression on the logical, though lethargic, mind of the peasant. One thing is clear amid the confusing results, that though the towns are returning Radicals and revolutionaries, a great majority of the peasants' delegates are Monarchists, and manifestations of loyalty to the Throne have not been wanting at many of the rural elections.

The labouring classes in the towns are displaying a different spirit. Their conflict with capital and their daily contact with the now emancipated Socialist have tended to make them easy converts to the doctrines of the Social Revolutionaries. But the workmen and factory hands of the two capitals have, by their votes this time, shown very distinct local divergencies in their political leanings. The cosmopolitan and socialistic S. Petersburg has chosen an overwhelming majority of Social Democrats and Social Revolutionaries: viz. 24 per cent. of the former and 32 per cent. of the latter, with only one Monarchist. The polling was very heavy: out of a constituency of 87,235 61 per cent. voted, and nearly all the elected are workmen. Moscow, on the other hand, the heart of Orthodox Russia, with less mixture of foreign element than her sister capital, has returned nearly 90 per cent. of the Right, including Octobrists.

The circular of the Prime Minister on the eve of the elections, though addressed to the Provincial Governors, read between the lines is really a note of warning to the people, reminding them of their duty to work loyally and conscientiously with the Government for the good of the Fatherland, that only by strict observance of the law can the confidence of the Sovereign

in the Government and the Douma be maintained, and that such confidence can alone "assure the possibility of their joint labours". This is a belated warning, by the way; and in order, if possible, to avert a repetition of the confusion in the first Douma, it takes pains to explain the programme of proposed reforms which the present Cabinet, unlike its predecessor, has carefully prepared for the consideration of the new Douma. And further, while denouncing the malicious charges of the Opposition against the Government, the circular assures the people that the Government intend to respect the Douma's rights of legislation, the voting of estimates and interpellation, and re-affirms their intention to develop the self-government of the Zemstvos and to improve the lot of the peasantry "by making it possible for every energetic and intelligent labourer to cultivate his own land, without impairing the rights of others". Apparently the peasants have responded favourably to this appeal. Their return once more to their ancient contempt of revolutionary agitators, so graphically described in Tourgeniev's "Roudin", is a hopeful sign. Their determination this time to send to the Douma their own real representatives from their own village parliament, the Mir, is a happy omen. From these and other incidents of the campaign, and from the results of the bulk of the rural elections, we may conclude that the agitators have lost their former hold and influence, at any rate on the peasants.

Though it is difficult, with the chaotic accounts at present in hand, to forecast the actual balance of parties in the coming Douma, a favourable change is discernible. Most important of these indications is the rise in the political significance of the rural constituencies. In these circumstances, and in view of the present show of public solicitude for the improvement of the peasants' condition, it may be that these constituencies, representing the vital interests of 75 per cent. of the whole population of the Empire, are destined to shape the course of Russia's second Parliament. In that fact there lies strong ground for hope that it may keep to the line of safe and moderate legislation and so do useful work for the Russian people. That Russia has a great future, in spite of her present internal disorganisation, no serious student of her history will question. That she is now on the eve of better things is also apparent. But whether these better things will be achieved by a Parliament composed of the numberless chaotic elements that have for months been wrangling outside among themselves is doubtful enough.

THE NEW HEBRIDES WARNING.

WE have discussed the matter of the New Hebrides Convention in its general political aspect. Its colonial and imperial, or anti-imperial, significance requires detailed examination. We are concerned at the complete failure of British Ministers to understand the only possible basis of progressive unity between ourselves and the self-governing colonies. In this respect the moral of the latest stage in the New Hebrides affair is the moral also of the latest stage in the Newfoundland difficulty, and in some of its aspects the moral also of our difficulty with Canada in respect of Alaska. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman bids us be quite easy in our minds because the Colonial Office is "saturated" with the colonial point of view, and Mr. Winston Churchill grows indignant at the suggestion that colonial interests have suffered in any way, or that the Colonial Office was not fully conscious of the difficulties in the New Hebrides and the best way of meeting them. What neither Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman nor Mr. Winston Churchill understand is that, rightly or wrongly, the colonies believe that they and not British Ministers are the best exponents of colonial interests. They do not dispute for one moment that inasmuch as ultimate responsibility rests, and as yet rests almost solely, with the Imperial Government the final word must also rest with it; but they do say with an emphasis which it is folly to ignore that the time has come for their full and frank consultation in all matters of mutual concern, and that the time has

passed when British Ministers can safely conduct negotiations with foreign Powers over the heads of those colonies whose interests are vitally affected.

In the particular case of the New Hebrides British Ministers have for more than twenty years had repeated warnings of the acute sensitiveness of Australasian statesmen to the position in which they are placed by the presence of foreign nations in the Western Pacific. Mr. Deakin, for instance, could, if he would, tell an interesting tale of a certain stirring interview in Downing Street during which the Australian position was set before Lord Salisbury with a frankness which that statesman found well nigh overwhelming. We have marched far on the road of colonial nationhood and imperial unity since the eighties, but British Ministers still find it consistent with their responsibilities as imperial statesmen to keep the Australasian Governments in ignorance of the existence of the negotiations with France which led up to the formality of a draft Convention materially affecting their strategic and commercial interests. Mr. Deakin and Mr. Seddon are left to learn the nature of the Convention from newspaper reports; and only after the business between French and British Ministers is actually concluded do we find Lord Elgin informing Australasian Ministers of the compact, adding in the Colonial Secretary's most curt phrase that it "must be confirmed or rejected practically as it stands". What sympathy can we expect colonial statesmen to feel with an imperialism under which this is possible? The baldest narration of the facts set out in the official papers is conclusive in its condemnation of such methods of administering so delicately adjusted, in truth so anomalous, a state as the so-called British Empire, and it is small wonder that even the most faithful of Ministerial journals, the "Daily Chronicle", is led to ask, "Is this a satisfactory way of negotiating affairs which closely touch colonial interests and strongly excite colonial sentiment?" France, poor coloniser as she has proved herself to be, did at least make a show of keeping in touch with colonial sentiment by appointing the Governor of New Caledonia as her representative at the conference; Australia and New Zealand were not even informed that any conference was in progress. The matter was to them of the first importance, but their interests were left in the hands of Foreign Office and Colonial Office officials. And the mischief of it is that what has happened in the New Hebrides affair differs only in degree from what has just happened in the Newfoundland affair. Sir Robert Bond, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, speaking in the colonial House of Assembly this week, charges the Imperial Government with first endorsing and then abandoning the claims of the colony in the fisheries *modus vivendi* with the United States. "No greater humiliation", he declared, "had ever been heaped upon a British colony" than that imposed upon Newfoundland when the Imperial Government held in abeyance the Newfoundland Act which gave effect to the desire of the Imperial Government. Mr. Balfour did not care to criticise British Ministers in respect of Newfoundland as he did in the matter of the New Hebrides. The kotow to the United States again! The grave aspect of both affairs as also of the Alaskan settlement is that by their attitude British Ministers have alienated responsible colonial opinion; that colonial Prime Ministers of the prestige of Sir Wilfrid Laurier openly express their sympathy with the aggrieved colonies; and that the continuance of this alienation can mean nothing short of the dissolution of the British Empire.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the Canadian House of Commons on Monday that "Canada has no grievance in so far as her relations with the mother country are concerned". Yet from the day of the Alaskan boundary fiasco he has never ceased to demand greater treaty-making powers. Further, we cannot forget that the Ministry of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has just put upon the Canadian statute book an open offer of direct commercial arrangements with foreign nations, which is intended to secure trade concessions independently of formal Downing Street negotiation. The only effect of the failure of British Ministers to carry colonial

feeling with them in their international diplomacy is to drive colonial Ministers more and more into direct dealings with foreign Powers. Mr. Root will pay more "social visits" to Ottawa and make more magnificent orations on Anglo-Saxon kinship; Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues will be seen more frequently at Washington; and Mr. Fielding and Herr Bopp will find repeated occasions to renew their consultations on German and Canadian policy. If we are content, as many British statesmen were content in the heyday of the Manchester School, supinely to watch the gradual elimination of the imperial hand, let us at least understand what must happen. The most foolish of all attitudes is to hide our heads in the sands of indifference and imagine that the colonial subordination to Downing Street which passed without serious complaint thirty or even twenty years ago will be mutely accepted by the colonial nations of to-day. In the wise words of Lord Milner's recent Manchester speech, "the self-governing colonies are no longer, in anything but a name, under the Colonial Office, or indeed under any British authority except the King. They are, in fact, States of the Empire, and the United Kingdom itself is such a State, though no doubt still vastly the greatest and most important, bearing almost all the common burdens and alone responsible for the great dependencies. Still, the difference between the United Kingdom and the other States in view of the imperialism of the future, of the only imperialism that can stand, ought to be regarded as a difference of stature and not of status—a difference which, however great to-day, must tend to disappear." Those are golden words and it is only at our peril that we continue to neglect the abundant opportunities in the way of consultation and joint action afforded by even our present administrative machinery to help forward the true ideal of an Empire.

INSIDE THE HOUSE.

(BY A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER.)

THE Session has begun well from the Unionist point of view. Mr. Balfour, in his opening speech, was at the very top of his form. Listening to him, one could not but feel that he was unconsciously making the best of all answers to those of his critics who have been calling for a change of horses without troubling themselves to indicate which particular steed they desire should bear the fortunes of the Tory party. The General Election left our party in mid-stream, proverbially not the best position for effecting an exchange of mounts, but the proposal to abandon the first without providing a second horse is one that will not commend itself to those who dislike drowning.

Freed from the accepted necessities of a platform performance Mr. Balfour becomes himself. The arts are not in his constitution that carry mobs off their feet, or extract easy tears from watery eyes. He will not make familiar jokes or tickle dull intellects with the echoes of ancient phrase makers. He uses a blade not a bludgeon, and his sharp point and searching reach are most effective where they are most required—in the House of Commons rather than in Hull. Mr. Balfour is neither a Joshua nor a Jeremiah, but that is no reason why he should be cast for the part of Jonah.

It has been decided at a meeting of Tariff Reformers that an amendment be moved to the Address regretting that no reference is therein made to the subject of the Colonial Conference, "and to the opportunity thereby offered of promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis". Mr. Balfour has consented to this course being taken and will probably speak in support. This action will please many who are above all anxious that the great principle they have at heart should remain in capable hands, and that there should be attached to its advocacy one of the finest intellects of the country.

Many of those who are much concerned for the cause of Tariff Reform are often made anxious by the action of Tariff Reformers. In some hands it is brought perilously near to the ridiculous; and those who are earnest in the support of our "chief constructive plank"

become proportionately uneasy. No doubt such men as Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Arthur Lee and Mr. F. E. Smith may be trusted to keep their heads; but some smaller men with bigger names seem in some danger of losing theirs. To effect a fiscal reformation much is required in addition to working hard—upon the house-tops. Instruction of the country can only be effectively carried out by teachers of ability who have given much study and much thought to the question. Unionists will be better occupied in grappling with their subject—a difficult one enough—rather than with each other; and one may well ask what chance is offered of carrying conviction to the mind, what augury of victory is presented to the eye of the voter who turns elections, by an army which permits the enemy to gain the day while it pots at its own general. It has happened in sea history often enough that men have risen and seized the ship, only to find themselves compelled to release the captain in order to navigate them to port. An ignominious predicament and an ignominious performance. In any case no one will kill Mr. Balfour to crown Mr. Chaplin.

Far too little has been said in the Conservative daily press concerning the exposure of Hebridean hypocrisy. In the month of January 1906, when this country was rent from end to end by the Radical outcry against the Chinese Labour ordinance, it now comes out that the Radical Government were engaged in drawing, signing and sealing a convention authorising another Labour ordinance in the New Hebrides. Such differences as exist are all in favour of the South African conditions. In the New Hebrides men and women, even children of either sex that are twelve years old and of sufficient height, may be exported hundreds of miles over seas, may be there compelled to work from sunrise to sunset for a wage of ten shillings a month, and at the end of their term of engagement "shall be" says the convention, "need not be" Mr. Churchill says, repatriated—compulsory repatriation being as we know the very hallmark of slavery.

Apologists were all in difficulties; many members of both parties in disgust; the Prime Minister knew nothing about it and disappeared; Mr. Winston Churchill knew everything about it, but his knowledge struck him dumb. Sir Edward Grey discovered that whereas slavery degraded the Chinaman it elevated the Kanaka; Major Seely eased a very porcupine of a conscience with this explanation; but to the mind of many, a very spectral chicken of the General Election stalked home to roost on the Radical benches.

For the rest the House of Lords is promised an earthquake that will lay its powers in the dust, but the threat has not sufficed so far to set a single coronet awry.

THE CITY.

THERE has been a perceptible improvement all round in the business on the Stock Exchange this week. The American magnates have evidently decided against a "bear" break, and after some days of hesitancy Yankee prices have begun to move up again. Steel commons, which at one time fell to 44, rose easily to 48 on Thursday, and Canadian Pacifics and Union Pacifics, the bell-wethers of the market, rose 8 points respectively. We should not like to say that this upward movement has come to stay, as we have long given up prophesying about the course of the American railway market. The race of tipsters declare that we are in for a copper boom during the next few months, in which case cheap shares like Chillagoes at 10s. 6d. might easily double in value. As there is no longer any question that trade is booming all over the world, the course of Stock Exchange markets depends entirely on the supply of loanable capital, both for brokers and industrial enterprises. That the money strain is lessening, and the funds for investment slowly increasing, is proved by the fact that the issue of 5 per cent. third debentures by the Argentine Great Western Railway at 102 was largely oversubscribed, and that the issue is already quoted before allotment at a premium of 3.

It is high time that the affairs of the Pekin Syndicate

received the attention of the shareholders in London and Paris. The syndicate has a capital of £1,240,100, divided into £1,200,000 Shansi shares, £40,000 ordinary shares and 2,000 deferred shares of one shilling. The ordinary shares have been £25 and now stand at £7, the Shansi shares have been at 24s. and now stand at 10s. 6d., while the 1s. deferred shares have, we believe, been at £280 and now stand at £80. This decline in the price of the shares is not to be wondered at, seeing that the company has been in existence for ten years and has never paid a dividend. A more glaring exhibition of muddling and mismanagement, of timidity and general imbecility than that displayed by the board of the Pekin Syndicate is seldom seen in the City. The Shansi concession is known to be of much greater value than the Honan; therefore this wonderful board begin by sinking a shaft in the Honan concession, which appears to have been put down in the wrong place, for the coal is worthless. The board's reason (apparently) for not mining in the Shansi region is that there the Chinese are hostile to the Syndicate. But why are the Chinese hostile? What steps have the directors taken to conciliate the Chinese? When it was suggested that a Chinese official or merchant of standing should be put upon the board, Mr. Carl Meyer, the chairman, treated it as a joke. It seems most essential that the Chinese should be conciliated and interested in the working of the Shansi concession. Not the least irritating feature of the situation is that Mr. Carl Meyer, who gets very large fees as chairman, calmly sails off to South Africa, leaving the Syndicate's affairs in this hopeless condition. The first thing the shareholders have to do is to change the present board: to get a chairman who will devote more time to the Syndicate's business; and to appoint some really first-rate coal-mining experts to advise and supervise the sinking operations. We suppose it is useless to try to turn Mr. Carl Meyer out of his place, as he is no doubt supported by the Rothschild votes. But he might be asked to resign. The shareholders must agitate and get together a strong committee.

The sudden fall of Anglo-American Telegraph stock to 24 seems to have broken one or two speculators, though proportionately the fall is not so severe as that in the Siberian Proprietary group. Siberian Props, Orsks and Troitzks have been merely dull during the week, and apparently the "shop" and their friends are not in a hurry to restore their market to its former strength and activity. Who goes slowly, goes surely. Kaffirs have also been interesting, and will remain so until the speculative public know what is going to happen after the elections in the Transvaal. General Botha's last speech about Chinese labour ought to have reassured the market, but did not. Australian Deep Leads have quite picked up again, the prices of Loddon Valleys, Australian Commonwealth Trusts, and Consolidated Deep Leads, all moving up slowly but surely. In the view of the best authorities the driving operations on the Loddon Valley property must have some decisively favourable result within a fortnight or three weeks. According to the diagrams and explanations, which appeared in the "Statist" last week, it cannot take many weeks now for the tunnel to get right under the lowest part of the river bed, and if the "wash" is not rich there, it will be rich nowhere. But the people want educating on the subject of deep leads. According to the "Statist", the last sample of wash was worth £3 net per fathom. As arrangements have been made by the company to deal with 60,000 fathoms a year, this would mean a profit of £180,000, which, as the capital of the company is £240,000, means something like 70 per cent., so that Loddon Valleys should be worth £7, instead of their present price of 2½.

The Government of Western Australia are making an issue of £1,000,000 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock. Among the prospectuses of the week are two new motor companies—one the Motor Auctions, Limited, the other the General Motor Cab Co., Limited—and the Société Française de Pétrole, Limited, formed to exploit certain Ivory Coast oil concessions. Motor Auctions is evidence of the rapidity with which the motor industry is developing

INSURANCE: MORE AMALGAMATIONS.

THE Commercial Union Assurance Company was only founded in 1861, so that as insurance companies go it is quite a juvenile affair. It has however grown to considerable magnitude, largely by the process of buying up other companies. Two more of such deals are just announced: it has taken over the Scottish County and Mercantile and made arrangements for acquiring the Union. It is only a few months since it took over the Accident Insurance Company, while the absorptions of the Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life, the Palatine, and others are quite recent. In regard to accident insurance companies we do not know that it matters very much to the policyholders whether they are taken over or not; while for the shareholders there is the benefit that results from receiving the capital value of the goodwill. When a tariff fire company like the Union is taken over it is more or less immaterial to policyholders and people who wish to insure; but of course, as we explained at the time, the purchase of the Hand-in-Hand deprived people of the opportunity of insuring to the best advantage; the deal was severely criticised and was exceedingly unpopular. Until recent years some pride was shown in the traditions of old insurance companies, and for one office established in 1696 and another in 1714 to disappear in the grasp of a relatively new office like the Commercial Union is by no means pleasing.

The Union transacted both life and fire insurance: the fire business has been very unsatisfactory for some years, and its life branch presented no attractions of any sort or kind to people of discrimination. Life assurance could be effected to much greater advantage in other companies. It appears that the life fund of the Union is to be kept separate and subjected to a fixed charge of 10 per cent. of the premiums for expenses of management. It is generally reckoned that the renewal business of a life office can be managed at a cost of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. of the premiums, so the life policyholders of the Union have not had their interests very well looked after. We imagine they will not be consulted about the change, and will be quite powerless to raise any objections if they wish to. The life funds of the Union exceed £3,000,000 and the sums assured exceed £10,000,000, but as far as we know all these contracts are being handed over to the Commercial Union without the consent of the policyholders being asked.

Transactions of this kind tend to make us think that the powers of policyholders in proprietary life assurance companies ought to be much more fully recognised than they are. We are disposed to endorse a suggestion which has been made recently that when the Life Assurance Companies Acts are amended, as it is said they will be before long, policyholders should be given votes for the purpose of electing directors and in other ways controlling the affairs of a life office from which they take nearly all the profits and to which they contribute practically all the funds. Given the existence of a company like the Commercial Union, ready to buy up everybody else, and having to consider nobody beyond officials, directors, and perhaps shareholders of the companies purchased, it is really time that legislation should step in for the protection of policyholders. They used to be more or less adequately safeguarded by their directors and by the sentiment prevailing in insurance circles, but this state of things has unfortunately passed away.

It appears that the shareholders of the Union are to be partly paid in £10 shares of the Commercial Union with £1 paid. It seems to us that an uncalled capital of £9 a share in such a company as the Commercial Union presents very considerable risks for the holders: in the first place it is impossible for anybody to tell how all these amalgamations will affect the prosperity of the Commercial Union. There is no doubt that they have made the company very unpopular among insurance men, and that many policyholders attracted by such offices as the Hand-in-Hand and the Union would prefer to insure elsewhere than with the Commercial Union. There is the further point that the company may at any moment decide to buy up a lot more offices, and the directors may choose to pay for these in cash, and for this purpose call up the £9 per share from exist-

ing proprietors. The future of the company is therefore an entirely unknown quantity: it may or may not prosper and, in the desire to grow big, may or may not embark upon all sorts of extraordinary schemes. Personally we should be very sorry to be responsible for so serious a liability as an uncalled amount of £9 on a £10 share.

CAVALRY JOTTINGS.—I.

THE whole cavalry question is, What will be the rôle of cavalry in future wars? Nowhere can a more effective reply be found than in a book by General von Bernhardt which has recently been translated from the German.* Written by one who has had much experience in handling cavalry in peace and in war and has made a profound study of the whole subject and careful practical experiments throughout a lifetime spent among horse-soldiers, it may fairly be called the last word on the subject. Bernhardt sets forth the highest German ideals of cavalry and its rôle in the future. Because they are German, are we to turn away from them and pretend that we are content with our English ideals? German ideals are based upon what their cavalry has accomplished in the past in presence of a redoubtable European foe, supplemented by a most carefully thought-out and exhaustive study of the precise duties cavalry will be called upon to carry out in the future. On the other hand, the accepted English ideals of the day rest on infantry officers' perfunctory and amateur views of what our cavalry did *not* accomplish in South Africa against an evasive foe engaged in guerilla warfare; whilst the duties cavalry is to be called upon to perform in the future seem never to have been contemplated at all. Contrast Bernhardt's well-measured and clearly thought-out views on the training of cavalry for modern war with those recently set before the uninstructed British public by General Ian Hamilton. Cavalry officers, possessed of the true cavalry spirit, have ever maintained that the author of the "Staff Officers' Scrap Book" has never been in touch with their arm throughout his service; and his opinions on matters connected with it, which contributed in some degree to the ill-success of Lord Roberts' régime, are on record.

As an example of General Ian Hamilton's slipshod statements, in one paragraph of his report he says that the British cavalry, although "their long limbs and flat thighs give them an advantage" over the cavalries of foreign nations, do not ride so well as at least one of these (presumably the German). The Irishman he describes as "much more split up, with longer legs and slighter and lighter body", thus having the make proper to a good horse-soldier. Is he aware that, thanks to the *Sin Fein*, British cavalry is no longer recruited in Ireland? That during the last two years the born horseman, whom Lever typified in Mickey Free, has not been allowed to become an Irish dragoon? Hence it comes about that our cavalry are now mainly recruited from two sources, both of them distinctly bad from a cavalry point of view. The first, curiously enough, is Scotland, and General Ian Hamilton as a Scotsman knows well that no small proportion of his "brother Scots", especially amongst the lower classes, hate and even fear a horse, and further are unsuited by their build for good riding. The second source whence we now draw our cavalry recruits is English towns and among a class of which not one in ten has ever ridden in his life until he joins. When, how and where does the theoretical "long-legged, flat-thighed trooper" come in?

Foreign nations, more especially Germany, imbued with the importance of securing a class of men likely to excel as cavalry, pick all their recruits from amongst the most intelligent of their country farm-bred youths, who may fairly be described as "horse-lovers". We in England, as in everything else where specialising is necessary, make no such effort but give our cavalry officers anything that comes to hand and expect them

* "Cavalry in Future Wars." By His Excellency Lieut.-General von Bernhardt, Commander of the Seventh Division of the German Army. Translated by Charles Sydney Goldman. With an Introduction by Lieut.-General Sir John French. London: Murray. 1906, 10s. 6d. net.

to make the proverbial "silk purse" in every instance. No sane nation whose existence depends on its army—and, from what Bernhardt tells us, the existence of an army in the future will to a great extent depend upon the existence of a highly trained cavalry—dreams of adopting so suicidal a system for filling the ranks of its horse-soldiers. If General Ian Hamilton would direct his energies to impress upon our authorities the vital necessity of recruiting our cavalry from such "natural sources" instead of indulging in dilettante criticisms of riding, he would do better service to the country.

No efforts on the part of British cavalry officers and men can really improve the riding until the existing conditions are altered. It is a painful fact that owing to our voluntary system, and the consequent irregular and deficient supply of recruits, much time is unavoidably wasted by our being obliged not infrequently to employ cavalry soldiers as livery-stable "helps", to groom and exercise five and six horses apiece. In Germany a regiment of cavalry is ever kept up to its war strength and each man has one horse to groom and ride. Again, the German recruit on joining is not only a man selected for his intelligence and his natural "horse-loving" propensities and environment, but he is a man of twenty years of age, well-fed and fit. Many of our recruits are underfed weakly youths who are unfit to go to the riding school before they have undergone a three months' physical training. Thus they are unable to begin their proper work for three months after joining. Many too are lads of deficient education, due either to natural causes or to the long interval between leaving school and their enlistment, and have to go to the regimental school to obtain a third-class certificate, whereas in Germany every man is educated. How is a British officer to teach a recruit "map reading" and "how to write a report" when the obvious preliminary drills of "how to read a book" or write at all have been somehow omitted from the recruit's curriculum, or, if ever learnt, forgotten? With all these drawbacks, it may be considered almost incredible that we have any trained cavalry at all. Thanks however to the devotion and energy of a very large proportion of our cavalry officers, who in most instances have had to educate themselves, owing to the defects of our system, it is conceded by even those who do not appreciate or realise the vastly increased importance of the rôle of cavalry in future wars that our cavalry has made great advances of late years. In one point especially do they now excel, rifle-shooting; and in this they are at present distinctly in advance of all European cavalry. This is probably due to South African warfare, but it is a distinct asset in our favour and one which Bernhardt is most urgent to see acquired by the German army. It is rumoured that this year one of our cavalry regiments at home has actually shot better than the infantry battalions at the same station. If so, more credit to them!

If I may venture to voice the opinions of our best cavalry officers it is this. That they are aware, and painfully aware, that the accusation of indifferent riding by our cavalry is to a great extent justified but that they feel, and feel acutely, the unfairness of this one point being published in a sensational report, to be greedily read by a public who have no knowledge of the extraordinary difficulties which our officers have to meet in the creation of a cavalry arm, nor again of the extraordinary facilities given to cavalry officers of continental nations. The prevalent idea of an ignorant public is that cavalry officers are a lot of idle plutocrats and sporting loafers whom they pay far too highly and treat too well. Few realise that the young officers who have at the same time to educate themselves and train their men and horses are in receipt of a pay of about 5s. per diem.

How far these popular beliefs as to our cavalry officers are from fact, I fear the present generation will never know; for until the nation accepts its duties and ceases to strive after the impossible, the creation of an adequate army out of "voluntary" and mercenary materials, there are bound to be these misstatements, false views and consequent recriminations. It is at least a consolation to realise that, despite all the drawbacks of our system, our cavalry leaders feel

confident that they can give points in "fighting ability" to any nation on earth. That this is the case is due solely to the reform in training initiated by our cavalry officers themselves during recent years, in face of the greatest difficulties, as here set forth, and moreover without the least sympathy or assistance from the school to which General Ian Hamilton belongs.

GREY SCOUT.

ENGLISH MASTERS AT BURLINGTON HOUSE.

THE large room at the Royal Academy contains a splendid series of pictures by English masters, which form the main attraction of the present winter's show. But among them are one or two foreign paintings which I had no room, in my last article, to notice. The most interesting of these is a magnificent Canaletto, lent by Sir George Donaldson. So different is this from the ordinary Canaletto that one sees that people have been doubting its authenticity, and some have even professed to see in it the hand of an Englishman of the nineteenth century. Antonio Canale came over to England to make money, having sold numerous pictures to English collectors while in Venice; and whether he employed a "ghost", or worked without a conscience, or was unable to create Venetian scenes when Venice was not before his eyes, it is certain that many pictures sold by him to Englishmen at the time of his visit are mere clever trash, hastily painted and lacking atmosphere, in which figures and groups, put in with a sort of calligraphic dexterity, detach themselves in unnatural bright sharpness. But in the picture now at Burlington House we have the real Canaletto, the painter of the two great pictures facing each other in the National Gallery, the etcher who had such magic skill in suggesting light and air. In the light, sure strokes of his brush we recognise the manipulator of oil pigment whom Whistler so vastly admired. Canaletto's confident facile manner was not without influence in England. It is to be traced, I think, in Richard Wilson, in his foreground figures; and at second-hand perhaps in the copy from a famous Cyp in this exhibition, a copy which seems to me the work of an Englishman of the eighteenth century. The smaller "Cyp" on the same wall is in all probability a German work of the same period. Another striking work hung among the English pictures is a "Risen Christ holding the Cross" by Rubens, which claims to be the lost companion of the series of Apostles at Madrid, and I believe with justice. Certainly, to judge from a photograph, this is superior to a painting which competes for the same title in an Italian collection.

It would have been interesting to have a few Van Dyck portraits to glance back at from the fine Reynoldses and Gainsboroughs. But Van Dyck is not well represented, and doubts have been cast upon the most important of them (No. 62). Certainly if the date be really 1629, as the catalogue transcribes it, this portrait of a burly young burgomaster cannot be by Van Dyck, for it is painted wholly under the influence of Rubens, to whom indeed till lately it was ascribed. The last figure of the date is oddly formed, but it may well be 1620, not 1629, which would perfectly solve the difficulty. By Van Dyck's immediate successor, Lely, there is an interesting early work; interesting, because we are apt to associate Lely too exclusively with the Restoration time, and to forget that he stepped at once into the shoes of Van Dyck at the latter's death, and worked in England throughout the Commonwealth. Even here we see something of Lely's original preferences in colour for harmonies in tawny and russet and blue and silver. Was it a whim of the truculent-looking husband in this double portrait to be represented treading on the hem of his mild lady's gown and grasping a lock of her hair with the emphasis of ownership—an object-lesson in the Rights of Man? A fine Kneller, of Swift's Sir William Temple, also early, brings us to Hogarth. And what a rarely delightful example of Hogarth's art! It is one of a series supposed to have been projected as a counterpart to the "Marriage à la Mode"; prompted perhaps by some chance remark like that which suggested "Paradise Regained" to Milton.

But Hogarth doubtless found the theme insipid; even this picture is unfinished. Yet if the mordant powers of his mind lacked material to bite in, his hand and eye found interest enough; the musicians in the background are wonderfully grouped, the character of each figure as well as each face unfailingly seized; and in the bride and bridegroom there is also unusual grace. What surprises in Hogarth is that, with all his gift for character, he has such a feeling for the bloom of life. His brush, with all its firm purpose, has loose, caressing, happy strokes; his contour is never hard.

Reynolds and Gainsborough dominate the large gallery, and each triumphs in his own way. It is Gainsborough's women that haunt our recollections rather than his men—the only plausible motive one can think of for this week's astonishing robbery is the burglar's desperate passion for the adorable Nancy Parsons—yet in the portrait of Pitt, lent by Lord Iveagh, how strong he shows himself, how he rises to his subject! It is no ceremonious portrait of the statesman, but the actual personality of the man. We feel the inflexible will, we understand all the animosity of opponents. Close to this hangs a matchless Reynolds, painted in his early maturity, "Lady Spencer and her Daughter". Romney also is seen at his very best in the well-known large full-length of the second Mrs. Lee Acton in a white dress. Arresting and engaging as this painting is, it appears quite superficial beside the Sir Joshua. Not only is the latter far richer in pictorial beauties—how broadly delicate the painting of the lace over the lovely red of the dress!—but infinitely more thought has gone into its making, though the attitude of the mother with her arms about her little girl is so freshly natural. It has depths and secrets; one can look long at it, and revisit it again, and always some new charm is communicated. The direct brushwork of a Hals and of the portrait-painters of to-day has its own merits, but it can never get the subtle and elusive qualities that Reynolds has made so real in this child's head, the response to light in the tremulous tints of the young flesh, the sleeping gleam of gold in the hair on her forehead. Yet all is tranquil and contained, there is nothing of the momentariness of Gainsborough. Of the latter master there are fifteen examples. The most imposing in its beauty is the great full-length portrait of Lady Radnor (so the lady is described in the catalogue, but wrongly, I am told on good authority), and the most enchanting is the head of Miss Linley (No. 91), curiously contrasting with the far less attractive profile by Reynolds on the opposite wall, which it is hard to believe represents the same lady. I could wish the "Lady Radnor" were not in a sort of fancy dress, and one is perhaps more conscious than usual of the studio trees which became so tiresome in the stock backgrounds of English portraiture, but it is ungracious to emphasise small faults in so radiant a picture. The lowest depths of our great eighteenth century portrait school are illustrated in Hoppner's "Lady Beauchamp", the kind of painting which makes one feel as if one had eaten a pound of chocolate creams at a sitting, makes one crave for anything that is grey, and austere, and has some design, or at least some drawing, in it.

English landscape is ill represented. Neither the early "Mercury and Herse" nor the late "Burning of the Houses of Parliament" is a wholly satisfying Turner; and the third oil picture which bears his name, "The Devil's Bridge", is unlike him in handling and rather puzzling altogether, though I believe it is more likely to be by Turner than by William Müller, as has been suggested. The water-colours also are far from showing him at his best. Richard Wilson's exquisite little twilight picture, with reflected arches of ruin, is the pearl of the exhibition in the way of landscape. It is a pleasure to see the famous "Chelsea Pensioners" of Wilkie. The composition shows wonderful skill, the drawing is fine and nervous, there is delicate truth everywhere when we look into the picture, and yet the whole fails of its effect and is even in some ways unattractive. Wilkie had modelled himself on Teniers; but, drawn on to paint in the increasingly lighter key which Turner forced on his contemporaries, he strove for light and air, but failed to modify his hard blacks and reds in the new atmosphere. Something of the

same sort happened to Nicholas Maes when he deserted Rembrandt for the Antwerp school. The result is a loss of the unity and harmony which delight us, for instance, in Morland's "Post Boy's Return" in the same room. I can only mention Raeburn, who is excellently represented; Lawrence, whose "Pinkie", a young girl with pink ribbons on a hill-top, is amazingly clever and only just misses being quite charming; and the single portrait by Alfred Stevens—a man's head—sure and easy in power, yet losing by its very ease and a certain thinness both of conception and execution some deeper interest which the artist, we know, could have given it.

LAURENCE BINYON.

"THE CASSILIS ENGAGEMENT."

LAST week, in admitting that Mr. Shaw's plays were often marred by the uncontrolled duality of his nature, I protested that I would not wish him one whit otherwise than he is. Nor do I crave the slightest change in Mr. St. John Hankin. For such a wish there would be no excuse at all. Mr. Hankin has no dangerous duality. To write plays that shall be admirable works of art, he needs but be true to himself. Of course the majority of people will urge him to be somebody else. The majority of people, whenever they come across the work of an interesting man, breezily deplore the fact that it isn't the work of some other interesting but entirely different man. It never occurs to them to take a writer as they find him. It maddens them to think of Mr. Shaw wantonly throwing away the chance that he would have of being somebody else if only he would eat beef-steaks and drink beer. They acknowledge the gifts of Mr. Arthur Symonds as poet and critic; but two or three years' service in the Imperial Yeomanry during the South African war would have, according to them, done him all the good in the world. And Mr. Rudyard Kipling: two or three years under the refining influences of an university would have done *him* all the good in the world. I, who do not subscribe to the doctrines of the all-the-good-in-the-world school, merely ask myself whether this or that writer has in this or that work been doing his best. When Mr. Hankin wrote "The Cassilis Engagement", a comedy produced last Sunday by the Stage Society, was he doing his best? If I could answer this question in the affirmative, my interest in Mr. Hankin would henceforward be rather slight. But fortunately I can reply "no" without a moment's hesitation.

From a purely technical standpoint there is little to be said against Mr. Hankin's new play. The story is developed very neatly, and the curtain falls always at some quietly effective moment. There is no fumbling, no scamping. Technically, Mr. Hankin has done his best in a medium for which he has a true bent. In "The Prodigal's Return", produced some time ago at the Court Theatre, we had already recognised that bent, and had rejoiced to find it in the possession of a remarkable person—a man with a keen eye for the comedic aspect of things around him. Usually the people who have a natural bent for the dramatic form are in all other respects so very signally dull, so very signally insensible to actualities. Well! had we not seen "The Prodigal's Return" we should have deduced from "The Cassilis Engagement" that Mr. Hankin himself was very little interested in modern life—in any life but that of the theatre. We should have fancied him saying, with an oath or two, "What was good enough for Tom Robertson is good enough for me!"

In "Caste" Tom Robertson got a lot of fun out of the juxtaposition of "high" life and "low" life. Those were un-democratic days, without board schools; and where Miss Esther Eccles had acquired the exquisite refinement necessary to a heroine is a problem that no commentator has solved. In a twentieth century play Esther would not be such a prodigy. She would have been as well educated as the daughters of the rich and proud. Of course an Esther in real life would not be comfortable in the presence of those daughters. There would be differences between her and them—subtle differences which she would be painfully anxious to overcome—differences of manner, of outlook on life, and so on. Ethel Borridge (whose engagement to Geoffrey Cassilis, a young man of good family, is the

pivot of Mr. Hankin's play) has been well educated, but remains very vulgar. It is not her vulgarity to which I object on the score of truthfulness, but her perfect contentment in her vulgarity. Her mother's vulgarity is of a still stronger kind; and her mother, too, is perfectly unashamed. Mother and daughter, suddenly finding themselves in the Cassilis' country house, are quite themselves, "terribly at ease in Zion". That is just what, in real life, neither of them would be. Nor, indeed, would the mother have been invited. As Mr. Hankin draws her, she is "impossible". Geoffrey Cassilis shows no sign of noticing her vulgarity; but in real life (for love, so far from being blind, is always peculiarly sensitive to all things closely connected with the object of it) this young man would have kept the mother very carefully in the background. Had he not determined to ignore this fact, Mr. Hankin would, of course, have had to sacrifice the greater part of the fun that he was determined to get by juxtaposition of "high" and "low". But is the fun so good as to excuse the unreality? Not even Tom Robertson, who was not shackled by any craving for verisimilitude, introduced Eccles as a guest at the Marquise's country house. He, on the other hand, had a more genial humour than Mr. Hankin has: he was unctuous; Mr. Hankin is caustic. And thus the fun that he got from his contrast between Eccles and the Marquise is of a much better quality than the fun that Mr. Hankin gets out of his contrast between Mrs. Borridge and Mrs. Cassilis. The fun of such contrast must in any case be snobbish. The snobbishness does not so much matter if the spirit of it is kindly. But when the spirit is a dry, sardonic one, the snobbishness jars, and the fun is spoilt. What Mr. Hankin ought to have done is to have eliminated Mrs. Borridge altogether (just as she would have been eliminated in real life), and to have drawn the daughter as a girl typical of the average girl in her class, behaving in her new environment just as that sort of girl would behave. Mr. Hankin's appreciation of fine shades would have enabled him to perform this task admirably. Not even so would the comedy have been a pleasant one. But cruelty is excusable in a setting of truth.

"Oh yes", Mr. Hankin may retort, "it's very easy to talk about 'fine shades'. But where am I to find a market for my appreciation of them?" I admit regretfully that I don't know. But I point out to Mr. Hankin that his attempt to find a market by dispensing with fine shades is not likely to be crowned with success. Indeed, that is practically what he himself, on Sunday night, pointed out in a little speech to the audience. Most of the managers in London, said he, had rejected "The Cassilis Engagement". Surely it follows that he had much better not bother about a market. He had much better write his plays exactly in his own way, without any reference to what the public wants. And then, some day, the public may begin to want them. Mr. Shaw is (and I hope Mr. Hankin will be) a signal instance of success achieved at length by a man's absolute refusal to do anything that cannot be squared with his conscience.

Mr. Sam Sothern, the other night, was a signal instance of success achieved by the simple expedient of talking at a normal rate of words to the minute. When he made his exit he was followed by a hurricane of grateful applause from the audience. There was no lack of other clever mimes in the cast; but oh their deadly deliberation! I am told that acting in public is a very delightful sensation. No doubt it is. But I do wish our mimes could be shaken in their common resolve to prolong the ecstasy to the utmost possible limit of time.

MAX BEERBOHM.

GANNETS FISHING.

STANDING on the whity-yellow sands in the little cove behind S. Ives I watched the tide coming in one rough cloudy evening, the sea as it advanced rising into big glassy billows of a clear glaucous green colour before bursting in foam and spray running far and wide over the pale smooth sandy floor. Close behind the advancing waves a number of birds were flying to and fro, mostly herring-gulls, but there were also a good many gannets. These moved up and down in a series of wide curves at a rate of speed which

never varied, with two or three or four beats of the powerful, pointed black-tipped white wings, followed by a long interval of gliding; the bird always keeping at a height of about twenty-five feet above the surface, and, without an instant's pause or hesitation, dashing obliquely into the sea after its prey.

That is how they fish sometimes, flying low and seeing the fishes a good distance ahead. When next I was watching them their manner was very different. The air was calm and clear and full of bright sunlight, and I watched them from the stupendous mass of rock forming the headland on which stands the famous Logan rock. The birds were in considerable numbers, sweeping round in great curves and circles at a uniform height of about two hundred feet from the surface. They were distributed over an immense area; ranging in fact over the entire visible sea, from those that fished within a couple of hundred yards of the rocks on which I sat, to the furthest away, which appeared as moving white specks on the horizon. When fishing from that height the gannet drops straight down on its prey, striking the sea with such force as to send up a column of water eight or ten feet high, the bird disappearing from sight for a space of five or six seconds, or longer, then rising and after floating a few moments on the surface rising laboriously to resume its flight as before.

The fall of the big white bird from such a height is a magnificent spectacle, and causes the spectator to hold his breath as he watches it with closed wings hurl itself down as if to certain perdition. The tremendous shock of the blow on the sea would certainly kill the bird but for the wad of dense elastic plumage which covers and protects it. For it hits itself as hard as it hits the sea, and how hard that is we may know when we watch the gannet drop perpendicularly like a big white stone, and when at a distance of a quarter of a mile we can see the column of water thrown up and distinctly hear the loud splash. Yet no sooner has it hurled itself into the sea than it is out again as if nothing had happened, ready for another fall and blow!

One wonders how, when the gannet is flying high, on catching sight of a fish directly beneath him in the water, he is able instantly to check his course, get into position and fall just at the right spot. One would suppose that he could not do it, that the impetus of so heavy a body moving swiftly through the air would carry him many yards beyond the spot, and that he would have to return and search again. He does not in fact bring himself to a sudden stop as the small light kestrel is able to do, nor does he, I think, keep the fish all the time in his eye, but he is nevertheless able to accomplish his purpose, and in this way: The instant a fish is detected the bird shoots up a distance of a dozen to twenty feet; thus the swift motion is not arrested but its direction changed from horizontal to vertical, and this is probably brought about by a lightning-quick change in the set of the wing feathers. The upward movement is not exactly vertical; it describes a slight curve, and, at the top, when the impetus which carried him up has spent itself, the bird wheels round, turning half over and bringing his head down, pointing to the sea. I suppose that he then quickly recovers the fish he had lost sight of for a moment, for with a pause of scarcely a second he then closes his wings and lets himself fall.

On this calm, bright day with scores of birds in sight I was well able to observe this beautiful aerial manoeuvre—a sort of looping the loop, and seemingly an almost impossible feat which they yet accomplish with such apparent ease.

The spectacle of many gannets fishing, all moving in a perpetual series of curves, wavering lines and half circles, at exactly the same altitude and all performing the same set of actions on spying a fish, produces the idea that they are automata moved by extraneous forces and are incapable of varying their mode of action. As a fact, they vary it constantly according to the state of the atmosphere and the sea, and probably also the depth at which the fish are swimming. But whatever the method for the day may be one is impressed and amazed at the marvellous energy of the bird, and this strikes us most when we see gannets and gulls together. The gull is an indolent

creature and reminds you of his friend the fisherman, who when not fishing can do nothing but lounge on the quay with his hands in his pockets, or stand leaning against a sunny wall revolving the quid in his mouth and making an occasional remark to the idler nearest to him. His brief and furious fits of activity are followed by long intervals of repose when he floats at the will of wind and wave on the sea or sits dozing on a rock. He also spends a good deal of his time in a kind of loitering, probably waiting for something to turn up, when he is seen in a loose company scattered far and wide about the sea, one here, two or three a little distance off, and a few more a hundred yards away; others flying about in an aimless way, dropping down at intervals as if to exchange remarks with those on the water, then wandering off again.

One day sitting on a rock at Gurnard's Head, I watched a company of forty or fifty gannets fishing in a calm sea where a great many herring and lesser black-backed gulls were scattered about idly rocking on the surface in their usual way. The gannets were sweeping round at a height of about a hundred feet and were finding fish in plenty as their falls into the sea were pretty frequent. The gulls saw nothing, or knew that the fishes were not for them and they were consequently not in the least excited. By and by I saw a gannet drop upon the sea just where two gulls were floating, sending a cloud of spray over one bird and causing both to rock and toss about like little white boats in a whirlpool. I could imagine one of those gulls gasping with astonishment and remarking to his fellow: "That was a nice thing, wasn't it! Coming down on me like that without a by-your-leave! I suppose if the fish had been swimming right under me he would have run me through with his confounded beak; and when he had shaken me off and seen me floating dead on the water he would have said that it served me jolly well right for getting in his way! Certainly these gannets are the greatest brutes out—but what fishers!—and what splendid fellows!"

The gulls have a particularly uncomfortable time when, as occasionally happens during the pilchard fishing, a number of gannets appear to claim their share in the spoil. No sooner has the circle of the seine been completed, forming a pool teeming with fish in the sea as it were, than the gulls are there in a dense crowd. Then if the gannets appear hovering over them and hurling themselves down like rocks into the seine the gulls scatter in consternation and have to wait their turn. The wonder is that the gannets diving with such violence, bird following bird so closely, all in so small an area, do not collide and kill each other. Somehow as by a miracle they escape accidents, and when they have gorged until they can gorge no more they retire to digest their meal at sea, and immediately the gulls return to feast with a tremendous noise and much squabbling, each bird fighting to deprive his neighbour of the fish he picks up. This lasts until the gannets, having quickly digested their first meal or got rid of it by drinking sea-water, return with a fresh appetite for a second one and the poor gulls are once more compelled to leave that delectable spot, teeming and glittering with myriads of rushing, leaping, terrified pilchards.

W. H. HUDSON.

PROPERTIUS i. 21.

SOLDIER, so quick to fly a fate like mine,
Hit from the Tuscan line,
I am your last close comrade; from my cries
Why turn those brimming eyes?
Live to make parents glad,—No tears must tell
Your sister what befel:
How Gallus saw all Cæsar's battles through,
To die—by God knows who.
On Tuscan hills bones will be strewn, and he
Who finds those bones, finds me.

C. D. FISHER.

CHESS: THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.

SIX games of the championship match have now been played and the combatants have adjourned for a season to renew hostilities further West. Dr. Lasker won the first three games and drew the remainder, so that his ultimate triumph may be said to be foreshadowed.

It must not be assumed, however, as one or two wiseacres would have us believe, that the fighting has been of a one-sided character, for Mr. Marshall has shown great tenacity and the champion himself has done his opponent full justice in the notes to the earlier games which are now to hand. In the first game Dr. Lasker defending the Ruy Lopez with 3. Kt-B3 brought about a highly ingenious sacrifice, as to the soundness of which "the last word cannot be spoken until after a most exhaustive examination of the multifarious variations".

The end game was most instructive. The black king entered the hostile lines and the advanced pawns became irresistible, white's knight being quite powerless. We assume those of our readers who are interested have already read the games in the press.

In the second game Marshall played the French defence and white continued with 4. B-Q3, a stroke he once adopted as early as the third move in his match with Blackburne. The game took an altogether original turn from the very start, a circumstance somewhat unusual in the opening, and white, having allowed his opponent an open file on his king's position, had to stand under fire for several moves. Ultimately the heavy pieces were exchanged, and white, with a passed pawn on both wings, moved surely to victory. The third game, which we give in full, is also a doughty one, and shows us the American baiting a tempting snare and falling into the pit himself. We should hardly agree with a very able annotator, however, that black "never made a more subtle combination", &c. The game against Pillsbury at S. Petersburg, or that of Marco at Nuremberg, to name only two, strikes us as having still more body.

In the fourth game Lasker allowed the McCutcheon variation of the French, but retired B-Q2 at the sixth move, a safer continuation than P×Kt or retreating elsewhere, and a somewhat rakish game wound itself up to a draw with four pawns each.

In the fifth game Lasker varied from the third by 9. P-K4, and the contest kept evenly balanced all through, neither player being in a fighting mood. The sixth was a curious little French game, both attacking in turn, and Lasker elected to perpetually check at his 20th move in a dubious position.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White	Black	White	Black
F. J. Marshall	E. Lasker	F. J. Marshall	E. Lasker
1. P-Q4	P-Q4	4. B-Kt5	B-K2
2. P-QB4	P-K3	5. P-K3	Kt-K5
3. Kt-QB3	Kt-KB3		

In the second championship match with Steinitz at Moscow, 1896-7, Dr. Lasker usually castled here. It is impossible to say that either move is superior to the other. As continued here it clearly means war.

6. B×B	Q×B	12. Kt-K5	P-QB4!
7. B-Q3	Kt×Kt	13. QR-Kt1	Q-B2
8. P×Kt	Kt-Q2	14. Q-Kt3	P-QKt3
9. Kt-B3	Castles	15. BP×P	KP×P
10. Castles	R-Q1	16. Q-R4	B-Kt2
11. Q-B2	Kt-B1!	17. Q-Q1	R-Q3

Black has more than surmounted the disadvantage (if any?) of being second player, and the way he now manoeuvres his rooks is interesting. White, on the other hand, laboriously transfers his queen to the other wing.

18. Q-Kt4	R-K1	24. KR-B1	R(K2)-B2
19. Q-Kt3	R(Q3)-K3	25. P-KR3	P-KR3
20. B-B5	R(K3)-K2	26. K-R2	Kt-R2!
21. P-KB4	B-B1	27. Q-R5	Kt-B3
22. B×B	R×B	28. Q-B5	P×P!
23. Q-B3	Q-Q3	29. KP×P	Kt-K5!

A very subtle retort. White had planned or speculated upon his opponent playing the plausible R×P,

whereupon 30. Q×Rch! R×Q. 31. R×Rch K—R2. 32. R—R8ch, regaining the queen. It is manifest that black gauged all the possibilities hereabouts more accurately than his antagonist. In giving up the exchange he clearly foresaw that the black queen would be rendered innocuous, as she dare not retreat to the king's side on account of R×P. But white's game in any case was inferior, owing to the weight of metal bearing on his weak pawn.

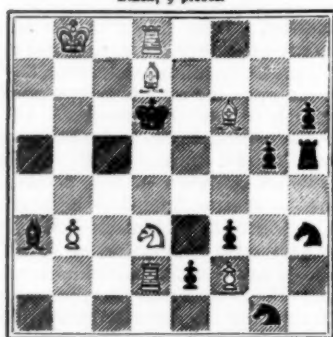
30. Kt×P	R×Kt!	34. K—R2	Q—Kt6ch
31. Q×QRch	R—B1	35. K—Kt1	Kt—Q7
32. Q—Kt7	Q×Pch	36. Q×QPch	. . .
33. K—Kt1	Q—K6ch		

The last cartridge. The remaining strokes are quite a study. Black's final coup is delightful, for if 43. Q—K8, there is mate in 2, and if R—Kt5, simply R×R.

36. . . .	K—R1	40. K—R1	R—B5!
37. K—R1	Kt—B6!	41. Q—Q8ch	K—R2
38. P×Kt	Q×RPch	42. R—B1	R—B4!
39. K—Kt1	Q—Kt6ch	Resigns	

PROBLEM 108. By B. G. LAWS (London).

Black, 9 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.

Mate in two moves.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COPYRIGHT AND COPY-WRONG.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

50 Albemarle Street, 10 February, 1907.

SIR,—Will you allow me to thank you for your excellent article on the reprinting of imperfect editions of well-known works the moment they emerge from the protection of copyright? Such practices were probably not contemplated in 1842 when the existing Act was passed, but they would be in a great measure obviated by the provision of the Bill of 1899-1900 which made the term of copyright the life of the author and thirty years afterwards, thus causing all his works to become public property at the same time. The same thing occurred in the case of the "Origin of Species", which Darwin himself regarded as imperfect; and an announcement is now made of reprints of Dr. William Smith's smaller Histories of Greece and Rome, which were thoroughly revised and in part rewritten ten years ago, because the original works (now to be reprinted) were out of date.

But there is another point in the announcement of Ruskin's works to which attention ought to be called. The author's profits on his books are stated to have been "on an average £4,000 per annum".

The advertisement proceeds: "Ruskin's works are released from this tax of £4,000 a year. The annual income earned by Ruskin and his assigns reverts to the public."

The idea that the public has a right to all copyright books, and that the protection of an author's earnings, derived from his own writings, is contrary to the interests of the public, is one which has been fostered

by much of the pernicious nonsense which has appeared in the "Times Book Club" correspondence. It is a highly mischievous and misleading idea, but is in some measure discounted when stated by heated and ill-informed controversialists. That the fallacy that copyright is a tax exacted from the public, and reverting to it, should be deliberately propagated by a firm which has borne an honourable name among London publishers seems to me a deplorable thing.

Surely it behoves all who are interested in the welfare of good literature to do what they can to nip such an idea in the bud. It can only apply to good literature which survives the term of copyright, and such insidious inroads on an author's rights should be jealously watched.

Are the earnings of a writer like Ruskin to be treated as if they were the property of the public, filched from it by him for a time, and reverting now to the original owner?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN MURRAY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Broadway House, Ludgate Hill,
London, E.C., 13 February, 1907.

SIR,—In your issue of the 9th inst., under the above heading, occur the following words: "The cheap editions [of Ruskin's works] which Ruskin House is issuing are the finally revised and authentic ones. But are Messrs. Routledge and Messrs. Dent publishing Ruskin in his revised and complete form? We put this very simple question to them." We hope to answer it to your satisfaction, and that of the public who have so largely supported us, so far as our editions ("The Universal Ruskin", of which fifteen volumes are now issued at 1s. net each) are concerned. We cannot speak for Messrs. Dent's editions, since, with the exception of "Seven Lamps" (which is to appear shortly), such works as they have announced for publication will, we understand, not appear till April.

"Modern Painters," Vol. I.—"The Universal Ruskin" edition is printed from the fifth edition. The alterations in the seventh edition (1867, 18s.) are described by Messrs. Wise and Smart, in their invaluable "Complete Bibliography of Ruskin" (2 vols., 4to., printed for subscribers, 1893), as follows: "The particulars of collation, price, and form of issue again agree with those of the fifth edition; and the text remained unchanged." Vol. II. The U.R. edition is printed from the fourth edition (1856), "an exact reprint of its predecessor" (Wise). The fifth edition (1869, 10s. 6d.) Messrs. Wise and Smart describe as "an exact reprint of the third". Vol. III. The U.R. edition is printed from the first edition (1856). The second edition (1867, 38s.) is "an exact reprint of the first" (Wise). Vol. IV. The U.R. edition is printed from the first edition (1856). "The second edition (1868, 50s.) is an exact reprint of the first" (Wise). Vol. V. The U.R. edition is printed from the only separate edition of this volume (1860, 50s.). In 1873 this work was reprinted in 5 vols. of the "Autograph Edition" (£8 8s.), of which Messrs. Wise and Smart say, "The text is practically a reprint of the previous edition of each volume"; and which the author in his Preface described as "This final edition". In 1888 a "Complete Edition" (£6 6s.) was issued, with a few notes derived from "Fronde Agrestes", "Caeli Enarrant", and the "Turner Notes", and three extra engravings.

"Stones of Venice," Vol. I.—The U.R. edition is printed from the second edition (1858, 42s.), of which no later reprint in separate form was made. Vol. II. The U.R. edition is a reprint of the first edition (1853). Of the second (1867, 42s.), the latest in separate form, Messrs. Wise and Smart say "The date was altered and the words 'Second Edition' added". Vol. III. The U.R. edition is from the first (1853). Of the second and latest separate edition (1867, 42s.) Messrs. Wise and Smart say "The words 'Second Edition' were added to the title-page, and the collation agrees with that of the first edition, but the imprint was altered, and

reads, &c." The only alteration in the text worth noting is in the "Travellers' Edition" (consisting of selections). The sentence on page 107 of the first edition commencing "And indeed this double need" was altered to "And truly this double need". Of the "Autograph Edition", in three volumes, Messrs. Wise and Smart say "The text follows that of the second edition"; of the fourth edition (1886) "The text is that of the second, with the additions first published in the small 'Travellers' Edition'".

"Seven Lamps."—The U.R. edition is printed from the second edition (1855), and thus includes the fourteen plates of Mr. R. P. Cuff in replacement of those of the first edition. The third edition (1880, 42s.) contains a new preface and notes, which the U.R. edition cannot include. The "thirty-three aphorisms", the absence of which your contributor laments, are of course included in the U.R. edition. They are scattered throughout the text: the only difference between the 1880 and subsequent editions and the U.R. edition in respect of them is that in the former they are printed in Clarendon type and numbered consecutively, in the latter they are in the body-type of the book and are unnumbered. In his 1880 Preface Ruskin wrote of the work: "I find the public still like the book—and will read it . . . here it is given again in the old form; all but some pieces of rabid and utterly false Protestantism, which are cut out from text and appendix alike, and may still serve to give the old editions some value yet." ("There were only two passages of any length omitted from the text: thirteen lines alluded to in Note 8, and four lines mentioned in Note 14.")—Wise. Their inclusion distinctly enhances the value of this book for the student of Ruskin.) The fourth edition (1883, 21s.) Messrs. Wise and Smart describe as "An exact page for page reprint of its predecessor"; of both the fifth (1886, 21s.) and of the "Small Edition" (1890) they say, "It is a verbatim reprint of the Third Edition".

"Lectures on Architecture."—The U.R. edition is printed from the second edition (1855, 8s. 6d.), which remained unaltered in all subsequent editions.

"Political Economy of Art."—The U.R. edition follows the first edition. The second (1867) and third (1868) editions were "formed from the remainder sheets of the first edition" (Wise), with new title-pages only. In 1880 the book was rechristened "A Joy for Ever" (13s.). "The [three] supplementary papers contain, in briefest form, aphorisms respecting principles of art teaching" (Author's Preface). The "Small Edition" of 1887 (5s.), reprinted 1889, is "an exact reprint of the Third Edition" (Wise).

"Two Paths."—The U.R. edition is printed from the first (1859) edition, with the two plates. In 1878 a second edition (13s.) appeared. "Save that two brief sentences regarding the cancelled plates were suppressed, the text of this edition is an exact reprint of the first. Unhappily the two plates which had enhanced the beauty and interest of the latter were not reproduced" (Wise). Ruskin refers to them thus in his Preface: "I have no time nor sight for the revision of old plates . . . besides, I own to a very enjoyable pride in making the first editions of my books valuable to their possessors." The 1884 edition is "an exact reprint of the previous one of 1878" (Wise); and of the "Small Edition" (1887, 5s.) "the text is a verbatim reprint of 1878" (Wise). Neither contains the two plates.

"Unto this Last."—The U.R. edition reproduces that of 1862. In the 1877 edition (3s. 6d.) "no change was made in the text of the Four Essays, but two notes were added to the Preface. The subsequent issues of the book are verbatim reprints of the Second Edition" (Wise).

"Selections."—The U.R. edition follows that of 1862 (6s.). Several reissues have been made since, and we believe no verbal change of any kind, beyond the numbers of the editions and the dates, has in any case been made.

From the above we think it will be obvious that the advantages of the so-called "authentic" editions are little more than nominal, whereas in at least two cases the editions we have reprinted are the more valuable, because the more complete. This author's works, indeed, form a very poor case on which to base an

argument—with which we are wholly in sympathy—in favour of a liberal interpretation of the copyright law as applied to alterations and additions made by an author in editions of his books subsequent to the first, though there are cases of substantially revised books in which copyright would have to be upheld. The clear intention of the Act was that after a definite close time in favour of the author, and under certain circumstances of his heirs also, had elapsed, his substantive work should become the property of the nation. The confusion of copyright proper with mere verbal alterations, often absolutely trivial, on the one part deprives the nation of the property intended to be secured to it by the Act, and on the other part is responsible for the production of a large number of imperfect editions of important books which should be protected by the authors' subsequent revised editions—e.g. Darwin's "Origin of Species".

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, LTD.

[We are not persuaded. Let us deal with "Modern Painters", "Stones of Venice" and "Seven Lamps of Architecture", to which Messrs. Routledge attach much importance, judging by the space they devote to their editions of these works. Their Vol. II. of "Modern Painters" entirely vitiates their whole edition of the work. They say it was "printed from the fourth edition (1856), an exact reprint of its predecessor (Wise). The fifth edition (1869, 10s. 6d.) Messrs. Wise and Smart describe as an 'exact reprint of the third'". This is utterly beside the mark. Really Messrs. Routledge might be a little less uncomplimentary to our knowledge and understanding.

The point of course is that the 1883 edition is the only edition which at this time of day ought to be offered to the public.

This edition alone has the new preface, the "introductory note", and the epilogue, consisting together of over twelve thousand words of new matter. Besides this, the 1883 edition contains 176 additional notes—described by Messrs. Routledge as "a few notes". In Vol. V. there are three new plates of special interest and value, seeing they were etched by Ruskin after Turner. We chance to know by the way that Ruskin set no small store by these plates which were finely mezzotinted by Lupton.

Now "The Stones of Venice". Here again Messrs. Routledge ask us to wander with them in the same fog of irrelevancy. We had rather not. The point is that Messrs. Routledge print this work without the new chapter or epilogue, "Castel-Franco"—a little omission which no doubt counts for nothing! They also leave out the new notes added by Ruskin in 1879 and the additions to the "Venetian Index".

"The Seven Lamps of Architecture." Messrs. Routledge gird a little at our "lament" about the thirty-three aphorisms. What is the truth? In the final and full editions, which Messrs. Routledge and Mr. Dent—we cannot lose sight of Mr. Dent though he is shier than Messrs. Routledge—have not reprinted (because they are not allowed by law to reprint), Ruskin added little riders, comments or terse summaries of the aphorisms. These are delicate and beautiful work, the mellow fruit of his intellect and style, and obviously without them the edition—to people of taste and any literary instinct—is vitiated. Again, the new preface is left out. Then the appendices were altered by Ruskin for the final edition; but what is an appendix to one who is going to print Ruskin, copyright or copy-right? So Messrs. Routledge go back to the old appendices. Finally, there are the fifty-five new notes which Messrs. Routledge omit from their edition of "Seven Lamps".

We have dealt with the first half of Messrs. Routledge's defence. We have not the space to follow them further. Messrs. Routledge appear to think we know nothing of the bibliography of Ruskin. We know that if Messrs. Routledge wish to study the subject properly, they should turn to the monumental work of Mr. E. T. Cook.

A last word. We fear we cannot take Messrs. Routledge for authorities as to what passages in Ruskin are material and what immaterial. Such authority would imply a literary judgment, exquisite

and unerring. We perceive no sign of this in the edition of Ruskin which Messrs. Routledge have embarked on. But even if we did perceive such a judgment, we should still in this matter prefer Ruskin to Messrs. Routledge. As to their theory of copyright, Mr. Murray deals with that.—ED. S.R.]

SCULPTURE AT THE INTERNATIONAL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 Church Row, Hampstead,
12 February, 1907.

SIR,—In an article on the Sculpture at the International Society, recently published in your REVIEW, Mr. Binyon asserts that Mr. Ricketts stands alone as a sculptor as showing no trace of M. Rodin's influence.

I cannot help wondering why Mr. Binyon makes no mention of a remarkable figure by M. Maillol, which certainly cannot be said to be inspired by M. Rodin's methods; I hope I may be allowed to draw attention to it in your columns, for not only is it a very impressive work, but it is perhaps one of the most interesting pieces which the International Society has succeeded in bringing over to London.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
W. ROTHENSTEIN.

CHRISTIANITY IN FRANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Cimiez, Nice, 4 February, 1907.

SIR,—Mr. D. N. Samson thinks he understands where "the danger for France lies", if foreigners "do not, often uninstructed and officious" as they are (REVIEW, 2 February). Why, then, did he not substantiate his insinuation that the Church has not "confined itself within the limits of the spiritual domain which it claims as peculiarly its own"?

If "the part that Clericalism has played during the life of the Third Republic as the ally of political Catholicism is the all-sufficient explanation of the measures adopted for bringing the Church under the control of the civil power", he should at least have given some instances of the prosecution of the clergy for plotting against the State. On the contrary, it is sad but true that the clergy, like the generality of honest Frenchmen, have strictly abstained from politics and electoral struggles these twenty years, and the governmental or Judeo-Masonic candidates have triumphed. This, however, in no wise proves that "the Government is acting in the name of the great majority of the French nation". There are nearly 400,000 functionaries; many more thousands are always waiting with outstretched hands for Government manna. They, and all their families and friends, are bound to support the Government. Moreover, as a Senator proclaimed last year, "no one knows the degree of abject terror that reigns in this country". By fear the Jacobins carried all before them in 1790, and that régime was very appositely named "the Reign of Terror". Not long ago a Frenchman was describing to me some electoral operations, when his wife interposed "Georges, je t'en prie ne te mêles pas de politique". She perhaps took me for a governmental spy, and her terror was pitiful to behold.

Mr. Samson's assertion that the recent anti-religious laws "are measures adopted for bringing the Church under the control of the civil power" is worth remembering, as the French atheocracy and their English-speaking supporters have left no stone unturned to make believe that it is a question of separation of Church and State. Truth like "murder will out" occasionally.

Your correspondent is good enough to reassure "the faithful who value their liberty and their lives". Apparently he counts for naught the gigantic acts of spoliation perpetrated first against the congregations, and recently against all Catholics by the mis-named Separation Act. These violations of personal and civil

liberty are unparalleled. No State hitherto has called upon all citizens to "stand and deliver," not the purse, but the souls of their children, that it may sow therein the tares of a hideous State materialism.

Rotten indeed must be the Republic whose public schools can stand no competition, and who must, in self-defence, drag peaceful Carmelite and Benedictine nuns from their cloisters and even violate their sepulchres!

For Mr. Samson all these violations of property, rights and liberty are "sad and saddening necessities", excusable, no doubt, on the plea that the end justifies the means. And the end to be attained is the reign of the omnipotent Infallible State, sole preacher, teacher and purveyor. This coterie is to concentrate in its hands all the power, all the wealth of the country; the rest—the cringing, crouching millions called the Sovereign People—will have nothing left but to obey, repeating "C'est la loi"—as one now hears so often in France.

"The mighty struggle going on in France is, indeed, but another battle in an age-long war, a struggle that dates from the birth of the first schismatic sect". Mr. Samson should have gone back even further. It began when the Divine Founder of Christianity founded His Church and declared that the gates of hell should not prevail against it.

Yours, &c.,
J. NAPIER BRODHEAD.

WHISKEY AND INSANITY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

11 February, 1907.

SIR,—From the reply of your correspondent, Mr. Gogay, to my last letter, I fear that he has misunderstood its purport, and that he has not taken the trouble to consult the Report of the Parliamentary Committee to which I referred him. With your permission I will therefore state rather more fully my reasons for disagreeing with his assumption that the use of new whiskey is the cause of 50 per cent. of the cases of insanity in this country.

The expression "spirits of commerce", which alarms Mr. Gogay so much, is intended to indicate ordinary potable alcohol, of any age, known to chemists as ethylic alcohol, the second of the series of monatomic alcohols. The impurities found in all spirits distilled in a pot-still vary according to the material from which they are made, and are collectively known as fusel oil. This is not a distinct chemical compound, but an admixture of several alcohols, higher in the series than ethylic, and their corresponding aldehydes, acids and ethers, but mainly of amylic alcohol, the fifth in the series, and its derivatives. The improvement of rum, brandy and whiskey by age is due to the conversion, by oxidation, of a part of the higher alcohols into aromatic ethers, which give the desired flavour to those spirits: they therefore depend on their impurities for their value. Gin, on the other hand, is or ought to be made from a highly rectified spirit, as free as possible from any trace of fusel oil, distilled with certain aromatic berries &c., and depends entirely on them for its flavour.

Fusel oil is not such a terrible substance as Mr. Gogay would have your readers believe. If he were to take a wineglassful = about 1,000 drops, in place of whiskey, it would no doubt make him very uncomfortable, and possibly ill for a time, but he is not called upon to do that. He makes a much more agreeable experiment daily—he has told us that he takes old whiskey as an aid to digestion, and with every wineglassful of that matured spirit he swallows a drop of fusel oil! It is a mistake to suppose that fusel oil is eliminated by age—it is not; the quantity remains, after six years, practically the same as it was when "hot from the still". All that has happened during the ageing process is that some part of the fusel oil has been converted into ethers, which generally have much greater intoxicating power, bulk for bulk, than the alcohols from which they are derived. The quantity however is so small that the toxic qualities of fusel oil

in this connection are of no importance. It has been found from the experiments of many eminent physiologists that much larger doses than those taken with spirits produce no injurious effects. The experiments were not mine, as Mr. Gogay appears to think, nor have I advocated the consumption of either new or old spirit.

For these reasons I must adhere to my opinion that it is not the quality but the quantity of spirit taken that does the mischief complained of.

Your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE UNEMPLOYED AND EMIGRATION.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

69 S. Philip Street, Queen's Road,
Battersea, S.W.

SIR,—It is of interest to note, in view of the decision of the Government to grant monetary aid to the various distress committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act (1905), that the Central (Unemployed) Body for London recently adopted a report recommending the voting of £30,000 for emigration purposes. The application of public funds for this purpose has, I believe, the approval of the President of the Local Government Board.

Will you kindly permit a working man to point out, with all due deference to the views of these eminent savants, that "*les plus sages ne le sont pas toujours*", and also to propound the following proposition to all those who favour this method of alleviation? How far is it possible to consider the emigration of unemployed persons as an advantage to the nation, and at the same time to sanction the practically unrestricted immigration of the surplus population of other European countries? It is incomprehensible that our administrators fail to see the incongruity of their policy, as, apart from the benefits that accrue to the emigrants, it cannot possibly relieve the pressure of the struggle for existence in our industrial centres, which to the unofficial mind should be the object in view.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. G. HILLS.

ROBBING BURTON TO REWARD SPEKE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

2 February, 1907.

SIR,—The recent announcement of the Duke of the Abruzzi, that he has named a peak in Central Africa after Speke, deserves a protest from the admirers of Burton.

Since the death of Lady Burton, who wielded a trenchant and mordant pen, the detractors of Sir Richard Burton have run amok, confident in the belief that there was no one left to answer them.

In the interest of historical truth may I file a protest against this glorification of Burton's assistant, Speke, at the expense of the real discoverer of the Lake Regions of Central Africa?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WALTER PHELPS DODGE.

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH'S DESCENDANTS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

5 February, 1907.

SIR,—The recent correspondence anent Major-General Baden-Powell's claim of descent from Captain John Smith forcibly recalls the old tale of the youth who related at a dinner party how his grandfather was a son of Robert Burns. An old Scotsman present, when appealed to, replied: "The poet Bur-r-rns had but one son and he was an idiot, which fact lends some colour to the young man's narrative. But as the said son died before he reached the age of puber-r-ty, it tends to prove that he is a most donnable liar."

Your obedient servant,

GARRY.

REVIEWS.

LORD ACTON'S LECTURES.

"Lectures on Modern History." By Lord Acton. Edited, with an Introduction by John Neville Figgis and Reginald Vere Laurence. London: Macmillan. 1906. 10s. net.

THE editors of this volume assure us that both as a teacher and as a friend Lord Acton impressed upon all with whom he came in contact that the student of history was engaged upon a task fundamentally sacred, and that, while politics are unintelligible without it, history is the surest evidence of religion in general and "a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ". Lord Acton in religion and politics was himself one of the most tolerant and broad-minded of men. He was once described by the late Lord Granville as a moderate Whig and also a very moderate Catholic. His principle in historical research was to refuse, without compulsion, to attribute motives of passion, or prejudice, or ignorance as a factor in the conduct of others, with the result that his judgment is always rational and his conclusions invariably just.

In these lectures Lord Acton traces the operation of the religious, political and economic forces which have made the modern world. He describes the history of progress from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 (which he largely attributes to the quarrel between the Greek and Latin Churches) to the establishment of the Republic of the United States of America.

The discovery of the New World and the intellectual movement in Europe known as the Renaissance, which Michelet called the discovery of man, are the two great landmarks which divide our own times from the Middle Ages. The Renaissance was the direct result of the capture of the capital of the Eastern Empire by the Turks. For the scholars who fled from the shores of the Bosphorus were welcomed in Italy, and their presence and example soon led to the revival of the study of classical literature throughout Europe. "Patriotism, national independence, popular liberty", says Lord Acton, "all were founded on antiquarian studies and the rhetorical interpretation of the *Lex Regia*". But, although he pays a just tribute to the magnificent failure of Rienzi at Rome, he makes clear in these lectures a fact which is sometimes forgotten—that the political influence of antiquity soon made way for a purely literary influence. This movement culminated in Erasmus, who believed that the corruption of the Church was due to misgovernment and not to false dogma, and consequently that its reformation could best be effected "by a slow and prolonged literary process." The work of Erasmus, and of the men of the Renaissance who shared his ideals, was interrupted by the Reformation troubles; it was only resumed and carried to its logical conclusion by the scholars of the seventeenth century. For although Luther no doubt owed much to Erasmus, the two, as Lord Acton points out, could never combine. The former looked with distrust upon the teaching of the latter, which he considered as essentially rationalistic, if not pagan. "He foresaw that the coming struggle would be not with the old school, but with the new; that the obstacle to the Reformation was the Renaissance, and the enemy's name Erasmus." Had the policy, therefore, of the Papacy been guided by the moderate men of the Renaissance, as at one period during the pontificate of Paul III. seemed more than likely, the course of the Reformation might have been very different. The theory of Leibniz that there was no cause for a breach in the Church and that people only called themselves Protestants because they did not know what was really meant by Catholic, might under such conditions have proved true. For Erasmus and his school were reformers in a sense that Luther never was. The Protestant hero, as Lord Acton clearly shows, was naturally a strong conservative and a reluctant innovator. His first protest against Rome was caused by the practice of granting plenary Indulgences, at that time an innovation of comparatively recent date. Therefore, when he made his protest against such practices "he had no idea that he was not speaking in thorough

harmony with the entire Church, or that the ground he occupied was new". It was not until considerably later in his career that he became impressed with the idea that the Pope was Anti-Christ. Luther was in fact forced into violent hostility to the Papacy almost entirely by outside political causes and the line of action adopted by Rome. The Popes, instead of utilising him as a powerful auxiliary to stamp out the scandals of which all good Catholics complained, preferred to excommunicate him as the teacher of forty-one heresies. It is important, therefore, to remember that it is to the innate conservatism of its originator that much of the political importance of the Reformation should be traced. Luther was a strong upholder of the principle of Passive Obedience. He also claimed to be the inventor of that other doctrine which was destined to play so large a part in the history of England under the Stuart dynasty, the Divine Right of Kings. In this way the constitution of his Church probably did more than anything else to set up the conception of the absolute sovereignty of the State which was to be the guiding principle of the statesmen of the seventeenth century. Thus it came about "that with all the intensity of his passion for authority, he did more than any single man to make modern history the development of revolution". For when once the counter-Reformation, which was so largely the work of the Society of Jesus, had arrested the further progress of the Reformation, the rival Churches had to all intents and purposes secured their respective limits. From this time onwards the influence of the Reformation was political rather than religious.

The downfall of the spiritual omnipotence of the Papacy implied of necessity the end of the old order, the beginning of the new. Henceforward each country was to be allowed to work out its own destiny and was to learn by experience how to adapt its government to the new conditions. The temporal power was to become supreme in all the more progressive States of Europe.

The interest of the history of the next two centuries lies, therefore, not so much in watching the changes which the Reformation effected in the balance of power in Europe as in properly appreciating the manner in which the hidden political forces, let loose by the religious movement, gradually changed the fabric of society. The struggle in the Netherlands, by which the Dutch broke from Spain, was the first of a series of revolutions which have made the modern world. For it was by the Dutch, as Lord Acton points out, "that religious change became political change, that the Revolution was evolved from the Reformation". In France the wars of religion ultimately led to the establishment of one of the strongest centralised governments the world has known. In that country the Reformation had from the first been identified with political intrigue. The Huguenots claimed liberty of conscience, but aimed at obtaining predominance in the State. The struggle between the League and the followers of Calvin was not so much to obtain religious freedom as to control the government of the country. The death of Henry III. and the succession of the Bourbons brought about the ruin of the political power of the Roman Catholic party in France; the capture of La Rochelle by Richelieu ended the political aspirations of the Huguenots. There was no longer any party in the country that could resist the establishment of a form of government which Louis XI. had devised and Louis XIV. was to perfect. In England, on the other hand, the establishment of a national State Church which owed no allegiance to Rome and owned no temporal authority but that of the Crown, and the succession to the throne of the Stuart kings, who accepted in all their entirety the theories on royal power put forward by Luther, resulted partly in the rise of the Nonconformist sects and ultimately in the birth of Liberalism.

The Puritan movement of the seventeenth century in this country culminated in the Commonwealth, a revolution of which the value, in the opinion of Lord Acton, does not lie in that which it created, but in the volume of ideas which it sent into the world. "It supplied the English Revolution, the one that succeeded, the American, the French, with its materials."

VERSE AND ITS PUBLIC.

"Poems, 1899—1905." By W. B. Yeats. London: Bullen. 1906. 6s. net.

"Lyrics without Music." By Clifton Bingham. London: Arrowsmith. 1906. 2s. 6d. net.

"The Fool of the World." By Arthur Symonds. London: Heinemann. 1906. 5s. net.

"Constantine the Great: a Tragedy." By Newman Howard. London: Dent. 1906. 4s. 6d.

"The Crackling of Thorns." By Dum-Dum. London: Constable. 1906. 3s. 6d. net.

A CONSIDERABLE critic recently maintained against all comers that Mr. Yeats was the one poet of his generation; nor was the critic an Irishman. That Mr. Yeats has a curiously sympathetic power in the musical expression of mood no one who has read him will deny. He has also surpassed older Celtic poets, many of whom possess this gift, in distinctness. He has passed some little way out of the misty moonlight in which the blurred shapes of Irish imagination, magnified by their atmosphere, have moved and moaned. Yet he is on the way to be spoiled by excessive fidelity to his school. Let poets be local by all means; but let them learn from the poets who have been given the local name of the Lake School. Wordsworth watched from Rydal Mount with an eye that also "kept watch" to the horizon of the world. The stuff was universal, the inspiration local. Mr. Yeats, following a creed that he has foisted on himself, consciously excludes what is not akin with Celtic myth; and we think his too conscious and reasoned choice has interfered with his natural genius. He desires to found a local, as it were a day, school rather than write things that may win pupils from the corners of the earth. Whether this be the reason or no, the peculiar quality of the earlier verse, "the wind among the reeds", misses the later "poems". The best and best-known piece in the book is "The Shadowy Water", a title that might serve as parody for the school. It is called a drama; it has characters, but they sail on phantom ships, in dream waters among "half-angels and half-birds", in the limbo of pre-Celtic mythology. Some lines "most musical, most melancholy" arrest us, and all the verse has the quality of dreamy melancholy; but the stuff not less than the petty egoisms of the introductions, the affected frippery of the stage directions, suggests that the pose comes before the poetry: "It is to be judged, like all my plays, as part of an attempt to create a national dramatic literature in Ireland." Mr. Yeats in short is trying to express feelings which he thinks and is told by his circle he ought to feel. But why be so hopeless of Ireland as to find the new literature only in imitations of the supposed mythical spirit? Mr. Yeats writes what he thinks his prehistoric masters may have felt. He were wiser to trust the present intuition. Here is a verse—still marked by the true Celtic shadowiness but of a truer stamp—from one of the few natural poems:

"We sat grown quiet at the name of love:
We saw the last embers of daylight die,
And in the trembling blue-green of the sky,
A moon, worn as if it had been a shell
Washed by time's waters as they rose and fell
About the stars, and broke in days and years."

Not often has the rhyming couplet been so transfused with the spirit of poetry.

That his esoteric Celtic circle should spoil Mr. Yeats is lamentable, but it is much less lamentable than that a huge anti-Celtic circle should foster by the encouragement of hard cash and soft sentimentalism the sort of thing that Mr. Bingham—a typical English drawing-room bard—produces. We believe his circulation is incomparably the widest in England. No Celtic public would for a second stand "Lyrics without Music"—and music is not the only quality they are without. He lends himself admirably to quotation, nobody

better. Here is a sample of the sort of thing that, in all seriousness, is the most popular poetry written :

" O kerchief, where she laid you,
Lie still, lie still and dream,
Too holy and too sacred
For mine to touch you seem ;
To me you almost whisper
Of days for ever fled,
For you are old, but living—
And she is young, but dead."

The lines are happily relieved by some hilarious howlers. "Mine" can only mean my handkerchief, a compliment of a really quite too intense refinement ; and the "almost", apologising for the extreme metaphor contained in "whisper", is unsurpassed in apologetics. It reminds us of a certain intensely dreary preacher who once woke up the whole of his congregation with the words "but, my friends, I fear I grow too figurative".

It was necessary to allude to Mr. Bingham on account of his vogue. The truer counterpart of Mr. Yeats is Mr. Symons. He too has the desire for plays, or rather dramatic fables. He has developed a theory of poetry and the arts ; he has found a locality other than London ; he has even touched Keltic dreams in Cornwall ; in the lyric rather than the drama lies the value of his new, as his older, tone. But in essentials his development has been the opposite of Mr. Yeats. He has come late into intercourse with Nature, in the sense that Nature fills, say, Wordsworth and Mr. Meredith. The change is confessed in a poem that appeared in this REVIEW, under title "Amends to Nature". Autobiographically at any rate it is the most remarkable lyric in the book, though many have snatches of the true "wonder and a wild desire". But this and one other excepted, Mr. Symons does not seem quite to have found out the new art that the new inspiration demands. The lyrics read like extracts from longer pieces, golden moments from longer meditations that have not yet completed their individuality. But every lover of poetry and English will rejoice in the fine Saxon simplicity of language which distinguishes all the Nature poems—save for one terrible lapse into "chrysoprases", "absinthine" and such sham formalities in the welcome to Feltham. Songs of Poltescoe Valley, Twilight Song, To a Seagull, Stratford-on-Avon, Autumn, Wind in the Valley—a very Meredithian piece—are simple and sincere, felicitous. To be great lyrics they miss only unity and the single note :

" What is it in the earth, the air,
The smell of autumn, or the rare
And half reluctant harmonies
The mist weaves out of silken skies ?
What is it shuts my brain and brings
These sleepy dim awakenings,
Till I and all things seem to be
Kin and companion to a tree ?

The dramatist, that some of our lyric poets wish to be, is the natural part of Mr. Newman Howard. He works naturally in dramatic medium ; and his Christian trilogy, now completed in "Constantine the Great", has at worst some of the Elizabethan breadth and courage. It is not without unreal imitations of the Elizabethan manner. The wit, the soldiers' oaths, the emperor's curses, read here and there like extracts from Webster or Tourneur ; and Mr. Howard does not get nearer the Roman date by putting into Roman mouths bawdries of sixteenth-century English. In structure the play has too the early faults of the English tragic drama. The dramatist would surprise with the sudden toppling of events rather than carry his theme on a flood of expectation moving to one event. But "Constantine the Great" is an accomplishment, the best play written for several years. It is not without a quality of elemental force ; and the language, even when the passion or emotion does not rise high, sustains its distinction. "Our thanks, like fruit, break down the boughs of speech", says Constantine ; and the little, happy idiom illustrates the minor virtues of the manner. But the conception—a rare failing—is superior to the art or technique. Mr. Howard should beware of a

monotony of pause and "ictus" in the blank verse ; and he has developed into a mannerism the trochaic, almost Sapphic opening of the line. Both structure and conception are excellent. The play should act well ; and at a time when "anything with religion in it" is greedily if irreverently exploited should find acceptance for its accidental if not its essential virtues.

One book of humorous verse deserves notice, if only for the strictness with which the store of material has been winnowed. "Dum-Dum" has done wisely ; but we cannot wholly agree with his principle of selection. He has included in this volume of "Punch" and "Blackwood" verses only those that are severely classical in tone. The modern theory is that humorous verse must not, whatever it is, be funny. The theory is a proper protest against vulgarity, cheapness, and a welcome acknowledgment of the claims of style. But the thing is overdone. Humour is more than treatment of slight themes in a style of classic grandiloquence. We grow tired of the absence of "fundamental comedy" ; and this bland manner too often conceals the want of an idea. In an address to a top-hat "Dum-Dum" complains that

" Men abrade and with 'forced fingers rude'
Scar thine incomparable nigrITUDE."

It is pretty verse ; but it is no more. It has not the surprises of Calverley, the epigrams of J.K.S., the idiom of Mr. Godley ; and we believe that "Dum-Dum", with several others of his school, has pollarded his natural growth by this extreme strictness in pruning.

"THE SPOUSELESS ADRIATIC."

"The Shores of the Adriatic: the Italian Side." By Hamilton Jackson. London: Murray. 1906. 21s. net.

THE Adriatic Gulf deserves a chronicler. That vast inlet, which Nature seems to have designed for an avenue of commerce into the heart of Europe, bore on its broad waters for many centuries the whole stream of civilising and enriching influences which rolled from East to West. Both from the Euxine and from Egypt the galleys came in quick procession ; and along the whole shores of the Gulf the dwellers in the coast towns took what share of that incessant commerce their own energy and the jealousy of Venice permitted to them. Hence arose the consequence of those whitewalled cities which lie gleaming like dirty gems on the low coast of Apulia—"Trani, Brindisi, Otranto, tre nobilissime città", says Bembo, who knew well enough what noble cities were. None of them is noble now ; still less are Molfetta, Giovenazzo, Barletta, or Bisceglie of any consequence save to a small coasting trade. But in the days when all Italy looked eastwards, when a power sat at Constantinople which still compelled some awe and reverence from all civilised men, and when the westward ocean beyond the Pillars of Hercules was little sailed, this Adriatic coast of Italy was the gate of travel, and the fount of trade to a degree not easy of realisation by us, who look upon the Adriatic as a channel leading almost nowhere.

Much of the trade of these Apulian coast towns crossed the peninsula, and was due in fact to the energy of merchants of distant cities such as Amalfi and Ravello, both of which had their own quarters in Trani, and doubtless at other points along the coast. The constant crossing and re-crossing of trains of merchandise, with the fairs and other opportunities of distribution which sprang up naturally at the divergence of the roads, explains in a degree the past magnificence of some of the inland cities, whose architecture Mr. Jackson has described and drawn with a care worthy of all praise. Ruvo and Bitonto, for example, command the roads to Bari, and it is the less wonder therefore to discover at the latter a cathedral the beauty of which will surprise most even of those who thought they knew Italy well.

In fact Mr. Jackson has turned virgin soil, so far at least as the majority of Englishmen are concerned. It is true that Schulz preceded him, and to the great survey of that laborious writer due honour is paid, as

is meet and right; for fifty years have not shaken its value, and those who doubt its accuracy will generally find themselves mistaken in the end. Even in Brindisi, that evil city where the cascades of flowers tumbling from the balconies serve but to point more clearly the filth and stench of the streets, Mr. Jackson has found and drawn for us a cloister so charming one would have wished to discover it for himself; and strangely similar, moreover, to an even lovelier gallery at Bitonto. One wishes that he had been moved to sketch at Lecce; a drawing of Tancred's church, praised so highly by Gregorovius, would have been welcome. Probably he considered the superb ruin of the castle at Oria somewhat off his route, though indeed it is reached easily from Brindisi, and is of considerable interest. But it must be acknowledged that Mr. Jackson has omitted little. He has produced a sober, learned work, adorned at somewhat rare intervals by happy passages of description. It is odd that Castel del Monte stirred him to no enthusiasm. Reticence and restraint are the first and last virtues of a descriptive writer: but Mr. Jackson is probably the only man who has stood on the battlements of "La Spia di Puglia", looking out on Monte Gargano and the long chain of white towns set like jewels on the margin of the sea, without some throb of emotion at the memory of the great Emperor who dwelt there, and the infinite tragedy which befell his house. It was a little cold-blooded to select that moment to discuss the artistic descent of Nicola Pisano. Indeed it is remarkable that Mr. Jackson could write so many well-informed pages about Apulia, and yet suggest no clear image of either Frederick II. or of Manfred. Here, if ever, is a case in which the memory of the great dead broods over the land still, and is intertwined so deeply with its history and even with its architecture as to be essential still to the comprehension of both. One regrets a little this somewhat stolid tone as one turns over the only work of value which an Englishman has ever written on this region. If only Mr. Jackson could have added to his own deep knowledge the touch of Gregorovius, who can bring into dim London rooms the very sight of the olives blackening on the old gnarled trees, or the almond blossoms fluttering to the ground, as the herds go up the long green tracks to their mountain pastures as they went three thousand years ago, and more. But one must not ask for the ideal; and Mr. Jackson, considering the sentiment on which so many English writers have made shipwreck, acted prudently perhaps.

MEPHISTOPHELES' COURT.

"The Friends of Voltaire." By S. G. Tallentyre. London: Smith, Elder. 1906. 9s. net.

THE lady who writes under the name of S. G. Tallentyre is well equipped in many respects for the work she has undertaken. She is deeply read in the story of French society in the eighteenth century, and we are quite willing to believe that in her studies she has travelled beyond memoirs. A book like this must be superficial, but her "Life of Voltaire", showed signs of considerable study. Her knowledge of the Salons is undisputed. She has done good service in writing this book, because the careers here recorded are those of men frequently talked about but imperfectly known, and it is just as well that English people should have an easy guide at hand to the famous names of pre-Revolutionary thought. It is not of course necessary that the driver of fat oxen should be fat himself, nor must we expect that one who writes of wits should necessarily be witty, but we wish S. G. Tallentyre possessed the gift of felicitous epigram which so frequently serves to lighten works of this class by French authors. Evidently she is well read in the epigrams of others, but when she tries to be vivacious she is too often trivial. Her sallies are saddening and no vivid picture is given of the brilliant circles through which she leads her readers. But none the less her book is worth reading and forms an adequate sequel to her "Life of Voltaire". Of the ten apostles of change whose careers are sketched here,

the one least known is Vauvenargues; and perhaps it is hardly correct to speak of him as a forerunner of the Revolution. He made a less conspicuous figure in the world than any of the others, but in character he excelled them all, even Condorcet. It is impossible to imagine him taking poison even to escape from the guillotine. A moraliser without bitterness and a Stoic without pose he is the complete antithesis of La Rochefoucauld. The apophthegms of the one aristocrat may be fairly set against the other's cynical view of mankind. Yet the experiences of Vauvenargues might have excused him for indicting both Providence and the world. His military career was cut short by the hardships of campaigning and when he turned to literature an attack of smallpox left him almost blind. Though an aristocrat, he had neither influence nor money to obtain recognition at Court. Yet he could give utterance to aphorisms which will never cease to be models. "Great thoughts come from the heart", "Great men undertake things because they are great and fools because they think them easy". Such sayings are enough to prove the greatness of their author. But it is hardly surprising that books redolent of such sentiments did not take the Paris of 1746 by storm. Something more pungent suited the taste of the time. Voltaire himself was one of the small circle that recognised the greatness of Vauvenargues.

Of the actual propagators of the new doctrines the most attractive character here is d'Alembert. His career is indissolubly associated with that of Mlle. de l'Espinasse, whose life has exercised the ingenuity of biographers and novelists ad nauseam. M. de Ségur's recent publication has probably said the last word on matters that were never altogether savoury. D'Alembert's rôle may have its sympathetic side, but it is hardly one that has made posterity respect him the more. There are limits to the complacency of cast-off lovers, and they had been reached before the unfortunate mistress passed away, leaving d'Alembert her correspondence, among which his own letters were not preserved, while those of his two successors were intact. But he was not a fighter by nature, and when the *Encyclopædia* was banned by the Censorship he abandoned his task. Diderot on the other hand flung himself into the fight with tenfold bitterness.

The writer endeavours to individualise each of her subjects in one descriptive word and is not always fortunate in accomplishing what is often an impossibility. To denominate Diderot "the Talker" is to give only one salient feature of his character, which however is belied by the enormous burden of literary labour he both undertook and discharged. After the edicts against the *Encyclopædia* had been issued he yet made himself responsible for the remaining ten volumes, and wrote the greater part. He even rewrote all his own articles when he discovered that the publishers had mutilated them and the original manuscripts had been burned. This is a greater feat of endurance and courage than the rewriting of the first volume of his "French Revolution" by Carlyle, and must be set down to Diderot's credit against his many unlovely qualities and repellent vices.

Turgot is of all the ten perhaps the most remarkable, for he alone was ever able to translate into action the theories they propounded. In one province of France, Limoges, he demonstrated how much might be done by one clear-headed and determined administrator. But what it was possible to effect in one province it was impossible to accomplish for the whole of France. It has always been an interesting problem whether with a strong king to back him Turgot could have averted the Revolution. But it is questionable whether despotism was any longer capable of reforming the evils for which it was responsible. The evil policy of divorcing the aristocracy from the soil had gone too far; the independence of the class which might have saved France had been too long and too persistently undermined. They had been made dependent on places bestowed by the sovereign and had been diverted from their proper task of discharging their feudal duties and left with nothing but their rights with pockets emptied in purchasing royal favours. How was royalty to sweep away the place system and beggar the whole class which it had compelled to abandon its proper

sphere? By the time of Louis XVI. thorough reform even at the hands of a Turgot was hardly feasible.

Perhaps of all the immediate heralds of Revolution, Beaumarchais suffered the strangest freaks of fortune. Louis XVI. had a certain amount of slow-moving common-sense, and at first forbade the performance of "The Marriage of Figaro". This showed a much keener appreciation of its real tendencies than did the frantic applause with which an aristocratic audience greeted a performance every sentence of which was charged with ridicule far more deadly to all the principles of the old régime than many volumes of philosophising. More than once in France to become absurd has been to court disaster, as was discovered in later days by Louis Philippe. Beaumarchais' career had something farcical about it throughout. He was employed by the Revolutionary Government on an important mission to Holland, and in his absence was by mistake put on the list of émigrés, but he had the luck to die of apoplexy, having lived through the Terror.

D'Holbach, whose wealth and attractive hospitality made his house the foyer of Voltaireanism, is well drawn. His feat of publishing the most violent attacks on Christianity and indeed on Deism, and keeping the secret all his life while he listened to his guests abusing his work, was one which must have thoroughly delighted this genial cynic. Not the least comic part of the business is the fury with which Voltaire and many of his disciples fell upon a colleague who had the courage to push their reasoning to its logical conclusion. But this is often the foible of spirits that deny.

NOVELS.

"The King's Guerdon." By James Blyth. London: Digby, Long. 1906. 6s.

"Lawful Issue." By James Blyth. London: Nash. 1906. 6s.

Mr. Blyth's talent is versatile. We have had from his pen impressive short stories of sordid peasant life; a novel, more recent, of modern social interest, and now, in "The King's Guerdon", an historical romance of adventure in the days of the Plague and of the war with the Dutch. The seventeenth-century manner is very well reproduced, there is plenty of event historical and imaginary, the characters are duly bold and dashing, and the strong Protestant bias of the author does not make him unfair to Charles II. and his brother. There are apparently the usual elements necessary for a satisfactory historical novel, but somehow the effect is dull, and lacks picturesqueness. The hero and heroine do not thoroughly engage our sympathies, and we are not excited by their vicissitudes. Mr. Blyth with all his cleverness has not quite the right touch for historical romance.

"Lawful Issue" is concerned with a question which though of vital interest to a few, is presumably a matter of little concern to the general public, the question of the morality and legality of the marriage of a deceased wife's sister. In London, people are not anxious to inquire too closely into inconvenient matters, but in a country town such as that which is the scene of Mr. Blyth's novel an illegal marriage is not to be ignored. It is forced on the community's notice, and the community, with some show of right on its side, makes itself extremely disagreeable. Mr. Blyth's story would advantage his cause better, if the second wife were not so silly and objectionable. A detailed history of country gossip, and of an uninteresting woman's processes of thought and conduct becomes very tedious—the members of the Tyler family are not vulgar, but they are depressingly common, and it is difficult to believe that they were ever received in county society. The author does not seem to suspect how common they all are, they and their friends; and so they are not even amusing. The book though dull has its good points. Lily Tyler's character is cleverly developed, and the old grandmother is an excellent life-like piece of portraiture. But the general effect is depressing and unpleasant, and as a protest against the law "Lawful Issue" is ineffective.

"Love in the Harbour." By Charles G. Harper. London: Chapman and Hall. 1907. 6s.

Mr. Harper, widely known for his books about the great roads of England, here deserts topography, and essays "a longshore comedy". A man cannot travel the roads as he has done without observing those who use them, and Mr. Harper has observed his fellow-wayfarers with a humorous though perhaps too cynical a gaze. The humour in this volume is over-much connected with intoxication, and the cynicism with the married state. Still, Mr. Harper has the air of not really meaning to be too hard on human nature, and he must be a very serious reader who, as he turns these pages, never breaks into a smile. The chief male characters in the comedy all, with the exception of a painter, get their living by the sea, and the best of them is a middle-aged mate who is a preacher when not a navigator. The plot is of the slightest, and the wooing by the painter of Cap'en Palk's pretty daughter is, until its rather forced climax, a shadowy affair. "Love in the Harbour" presents, in fact, rather a series of briny incidents than a continuous tale; but these are calculated to rouse a mild amusement, and are of sufficient interest to keep one awake upon a summer's afternoon.

"The Last Miracle." By M. P. Shiel. London: Werner Laurie. 1906. 6s.

Mr. Shiel's nightmares are not much to our taste, but he has certainly come to write better than of old. His new book has some melodramatic merits, and contains a close study of an unpractical pedant forced to stirring action. Its theme is most unpleasant: the enemies of Christianity arrange, by horrible means, a series of pseudo-miraculous phenomena, in order that on the consequent exposure the Church may completely lose its hold on mankind. The arch-villain, a Styrian nobleman, is a kind of blend of Wilkie Collins' Count Fosco and Mr. Bram Stoker's Dracula. The plot, as will be seen, is rather like an inversion of a much-advertised story which has been for some time on the bookstalls. Whether Mr. Shiel writes with a purpose we cannot say, nor does it much matter.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The Evolution of Matter." By Gustave Le Bon. London: The Walter Scott Publishing Company. 1907. 5s.

A translation of this work which has passed through three editions in France was very much to be desired, for it would be hard to conceive any reading more fascinating. Mr. Legge has done something more than merely translate it: he stands as sponsor for the recognition by scientific experts in Europe, England and America of the value of Dr. Le Bon's experiments and their reception in various degrees of the soundness of his theories. This was necessary, for some years ago Dr. Le Bon's papers in the "Revue Scientifique" set all the scientific pundits by the ears. His speculations and experiments related to the phenomena associated with radio-active bodies and the light which, as appeared to him, they threw on the constitution of matter. To him the marvels of radium and other similar bodies were only special cases of a disassociation of atomic forces which in greater or lesser degree were going on in all matter. It was a conception which insisted on the "chemistry without balance", the loss of weight not recognisable by our finest balances, and the reconstruction of all science now founded on the basis of conservation of matter and energy. There has been a gradual approach to the heretical views of Dr. Le Bon: the cause of it appears in the book and in Mr. Legge's preface. There is no embarrassment about any distinction between Dr. Le Bon's completed views and the still tentative position of science. He makes it quite clear; so that while the actual dissolution of matter in the liberation of intra-atomic forces is to him a proved case, he leaves the reader in no doubt that, to his regret, scientific men generally have not yet come to that conclusion. He himself not only maintains this, but suggests that just as we have been able to utilise electricity, so ultimately we may be able to utilise the inconceivable force of intra-atomic energy itself for practical purposes. Mr. Legge has made a literary translation of Dr. Le Bon's brilliant French.

"The Royal Navy List and Naval Recorder." London: Witherby. January, 1907. 10s.

This register of ships and sea-officers is one of those indispensable books constantly called into requisition. In its capacity of Naval Recorder, the current number touches on

he latest scheme of Redistribution about which, without additional official information, there is not much to be said; the page showing the alterations made at different times in fleets and squadrons since 1878 should prove particularly useful shortly, when the Estimates come up for discussion. A note on discipline includes the Admiralty minute of December reviewing the proceedings and sentences of the courts-martial arising out of the rioting at Portsmouth barracks, an unfortunate notable naval event of the last quarter of the year. Through the death of Sir Edward Fanshawe, a name is removed from the Navy List which recalls memories of St. Jean d'Acre, Sveaborg and the Baltic, and the obituary contains notices of several officers who in their time have done good service for the State. A book of this nature can never be kept wholly free from clerical errors and the Index will be found occasionally at fault; still, taken altogether, it is surprising mistakes and omissions are so few.

"The Life of an Empire." By Walter Meakin. London: Unwin. 1907. 6s. net.

Mr. Walter Meakin has seen various parts of the Empire and on the strength of his observations elects to tell us all about our Imperial possibilities. His book is as flimsy as it is pretentious. His ideas are cosmopolitan, his economics are childish, and his way of expressing himself would not redound to the credit of a schoolboy essayist. "The life of an empire depends on its successes in solving the difficulties which threaten its decay or existence"; and "like the British Empire, the Roman Empire had commenced from a very small beginning" are two sample sentences. "Though the Dutch were excluded from India they kept the English from the East Indies" is a geographical absurdity. As for Mr. Meakin's economics let us take one short passage: "The wealth of the Empire is the people. Other things called wealth, such as extent of territory, accumulated capital and trade, are of themselves useless, but since they enable the people to exist their importance is great. On the extent of these latter the number and quality of the people depends, and I will term them the Resources of the Empire." The pages are so peppered with "howevers" that we shall hardly see one in the future without thinking of Mr. Walter Meakin.

"The English Flower Garden and Home Grounds." By W. Robinson. London: Murray. 1907. 15s.

Mr. Robinson's work is undoubtedly the best modern book of reference for flower gardens. It has between five and six hundred pages of a plant dictionary which the author has kept carefully up to date since he first published the book twenty-three or twenty-four years ago. His new edition makes the tenth, surely a remarkable record for a fifteen-shilling book. An interesting chapter describes typical gardens in different parts of England. There is a sympathetic description of the rectory garden at Eversley. That garden, long in sad disarray after Kingsley's death, has, we were glad to notice lately, once more grown beautiful, thanks to careful and reverent hands. Kingsley's grand pines are bowed, but they seem to have lost little of their vitality.

"The Bookman Illustrated History of English Literature." By Thomas Seecombe and W. Robertson Nicoll. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2 vols. 15s. net.

Here we have a bulky addition, inconvenient to handle, to existing popular accounts of English literature from the invention of printing to the present day. Its compilers disclaim any intention of writing for scholars: their concern is to meet an assumed want on the part of the general public. They aim at classifying and sampling the best things of different epochs and supplying such biographical matter as will enable the reader to understand the atmosphere in which great books have been written. These "essays in appreciation" of individual writers or groups of writers will no doubt please all who like to read about books rather than read the books themselves. The full-page illustrations are the distinguishing feature of the work.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 1er Février. 3 fr.

This is a good number. It contains two articles of especial interest, one by M. Vandal on the reasons for the Concordat and the other by M. Pinon on the relations between Austria and Serbia. We hardly think we are indiscreet in describing M. Vandal's paper as a chapter out of the coming second volume of his great work "L'Avènement de Bonaparte": it ends with a remarkable speech of the First Consul never before published, but undoubtedly authenticated, for it was taken down at the time by Lagarde, Secretary-General to the Consuls, and was given to M. Vandal by his descendants. Bonaparte's remarks are singularly worthy of consideration in the France of to-day. "Can a Government hope to rally the people round it when at the same time it is harrying the same people in its dearest beliefs. The people is free and sovereign. You have been saying always, 'Vive la liberté! Vive l'humanité!' and this free people cannot go to mass and the humane Government tears from their firesides old men of

eighty who soon die in exile. I wish all religions tolerated, and that that of the majority of the nation should not be excepted from this principle." M. Pinon is surely on a false tack when he attributes the reluctance of our Foreign Office to acknowledge King Peter, after Alexander's murder, to British Puritanism!

THEOLOGY.

"The Gospel History and its Transmission." By F. C. Burkitt. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 1906. 6s. net.

Another book on the Gospels, especially on the Synoptic problem. We were getting tired of the Synoptic problem, but Professor Burkitt has revived our flagging interest; he is always interesting, original, and so ingenious that slower minds grow alarmed as to what he may not undertake to prove next; but in this book he is on the whole conservative. And he is rather patronising too; he takes the evangelists in hand one by one and puts them down in their proper places, as a rule with a pat on the back and a word of encouragement; but he has no scruple in pointing out their little failings. S. Luke wrote good history till he unfortunately came across the copy of Josephus and added those touches about Theudas and Lysanias which are so wildly wrong; as for S. John the mistake is with us in thinking that the fourth Gospel was ever meant to be taken as history or as more than a miracle play, a sort of dramatic setting of the doctrines expounded in the first epistle; S. Matthew again has played fast and loose with the order of events in the ministry and where he differs from S. Mark is simply doing it of fell dogmatic purpose; in the narrative he has no independent value. However, with the greater part of Mr. Burkitt's book we are in agreement; it is satisfactory to see so independent a critic defending the historical accuracy of so much of the Gospel story; and if where he abandons the traditional position his arguments sometimes appear one-sided or his conclusions hasty, this may be due to his book being a collection of popular lectures, in which conclusions rather than processes had to be given. Still we must confess that we never can see the similarity between the account of Theudas in the Acts and that in Josephus; while if S. Luke used, or misused, Josephus, in that case why did he not draw on the same authority for the death of Agrippa I.? The account in the Acts appears to us far more simple and original. Nor do we think that Mr. Burkitt has given sufficient attention to the positive arguments in favour of the Johannine authorship of the fourth Gospel; he relies on the differences between it and S. Mark, on the nature of its miracles, and on the scantily attested tradition that John the son of Zebedee was martyred at the same time as his brother James. On the last point we would ask, which is the more likely—that S. Luke should have narrated S. Peter's escape from Herod and S. James' death at his hands, but have left out all notice of the death of S. John, the third member of that famous trio? or that a later historian or calendar maker should have unconsciously added the name of John to that of the James with whom he is so constantly coupled in the Gospel? Also, if S. John was executed with S. James 44 A.D., how are we to explain the reference to him in Galatians ii. 9? for certainly he seems alive there.

"The Gentile and the Jew in the Courts of the Temple of Christ." By John I. Döllinger. Translated by N. Darnell. Second Edition. 2 vols. London: Gibbings. 1906. 12s. net.

The first edition of this great work appeared in 1862, and Döllinger finished writing it just half a century ago. It does not therefore represent either his ripest thought or the latest investigation of our time. In fact the comparative study of religions—which must not be confused with theology—was almost in its infancy in the mid-nineteenth century. This only makes the massive learning of "The Gentile and the Jew" the more admirable, and Messrs. Gibbings have done well to re-issue these volumes. In his preface the author wrote: "If I be not mistaken, there is in the agitation of the Pagan intellect throughout the century before, and the century and a half after, Christ, amid much that seems accidental, a certain regularity discernible, an entering of that spirit into forms of ever-progressive precision. The 'genius of antiquity essayed, exhausted, and used up, so to say, every combination possible of the principles once entrusted and handed down to her, the entire of the plastic power that dwelt within her; it was only after she had become completely incorporated, after each one of her doctrines, forms and institutions, her sum of vital power, had been sifted and consumed, that with the period of the Antonines a mighty revolution commenced—not visible, indeed, to those who were contemporary with it, suspected by but a few; and a leaf in the history of the human mind was turned over." "The Gentile and the Jew" is the elaboration of this idea. Some of the chapters make it painfully plain in what sensuality paganism at its fairest—the paganism of those great and glorious five centuries—wallowed, and what it was out of which the lives of the first converts in Corinth, Athens, Ephesus and Rome, yes, and in the lands of the "noble savage of the north", were lifted by Christianity.

(Continued on page 212.)

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"Practice and Science in Religion: a Study of Method in Comparative Religion." By J. H. Woods. London: Longmans. 1906. 3s. 6d. net.

The sub-title of this book expresses its contents more nearly than the main title which led us to expect a treatise on casuistry. But these six short lectures (the "Paddock Lectures" for 1905-6) treat of the philosophy of religion and of the development of religious conceptions and practices. On the latter subject Professor Woods writes well; when describing the history of primitive beliefs and customs he is clear and interesting. But we must confess that his philosophy of religion is not so good: there he seems to us wordy and pretentious, without making any solid contribution to the subject. Still, the earlier lectures might be very useful to an intellectual young lady who wanted to impress her friends; she would learn to talk about judgments, and levels of value, and a normative consciousness, and to define religion as "a personal feeling of the correspondence of one's self as a whole with some collective system of values", and so forth; but we doubt whether she or her friends would be much the wiser.

"The Interlinear Bible: the Authorised Version and the Revised Version, together with the Marginal Notes of both Versions and Central References. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1906. Cloth, 12s. 6d. net; Morocco, 21s. net.

This is a new attempt to popularise the Revised Version, by exhibiting both its agreements with and its differences from the Authorised. The old "Parallel Bible" was quite convenient, but the reader had to find out the variations for himself; the "Interlinear Bible" has the matter common to the two versions printed in large type, while when we come to a difference the line divides into two lines of small type, the upper giving us the Revised and the lower the Authorised Version. It is a beautiful piece of printing, set up with wonderful skill and care; and it will be useful as a book of reference, and for the student who wishes to see at a glance the variant translations of any particular passage. But the inclusion of every minute difference, such as that between "fellow-soldier" and "fellow-soldier", or that between a colon and a semi-colon in punctuation, gives an exaggerated appearance of divergence between the two versions, and also discloses the arbitrary nature of many of the changes, especially in the New Testament. And it is a book to refer to, not to read; the constant changes from big to small type are tiring to the eyes and trying to the temper; on the whole we prefer the old Parallel Bible.

"The Blessed John Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Patron of Parish Priests." By Joseph Vianney; translated by C. W. W. ("The Saints"). London: Duckworth. 1906. 3s.

Any man with whom religion is a reality must be impressed by this book; it matters little whether he be Catholic or Protestant, whether he have sympathy for the kind of religion depicted or be as a rule opposed to it. In the life of the Curé d'Ars we have a story of devotion and self-sacrifice, of magic influence over others, of shrewd common-sense and humour, so wonderful as to be almost past belief. No doubt it is all very Roman Catholic and all very French; no doubt many of us cannot believe all that he believed and taught; we may doubt the wisdom of much of his asceticism and stand aghast at his methods of charitable relief; he is said to have worked miracles and some of them are duly recorded, but we think they may be explained in a natural way. But there is no such explanation of the man's whole life and character; that is the great miracle; it is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes. A religious Frenchman at his best is perhaps the noblest character that can be found; as the anti-religious Frenchman is the poorest. And the French Government is doing what in it lies to prevent the possibility of there ever being another Curé d'Ars; it is a sad thing not only for France but for the whole world.

"Church and State in England and Wales, 1829-1906." By M. J. F. McCarthy. Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co. London: Simpkin, Marshall. 1906.

There is a section of the British public that will swallow anything written against the High Church party: it applauded the Kensit crusade and bought Mr. Walsh's "Secret History of the Oxford Movement"; it reads Lady Wimborne's letters in the "Times", and will doubtless devour this last contribution to Protestant polemics. Mr. McCarthy has set himself to expose the wickedness of the Church of England, the Bishops, the Universities, and "priestcraft" generally; and on the principle of never supposing a good motive where a bad one is conceivable, he has made out a case. And his readers, if they have never been at Oxford, will be thankful that they and their sons have been preserved from its contaminations; if they have never met a Bishop, they will talk more than ever about "spiritual wickedness in high places"; just as a few months ago those of us who were not in Society gloated over the goings-on of the Smart Set. The danger in books of this kind is that the caterer may provide his food in excessive quantity and badly cooked, spite of the high seasoning; and this is what Mr. McCarthy has done. His book is very long,

very vulgar, and appallingly inaccurate; he paints the Bishops in colours so dark that even a Liberationist would hardly recognise them, and he represents them and their clergy as uniformly actuated by two motives, a desire to pile up colossal incomes and a wish to Romanise the Church; this is overdoing the business. The book may succeed among the very ignorant; it will disgust readers of average intelligence and refinement.

"The Mother of Jesus: in the First Age and After." By J. Herbert Williams. London: Kegan Paul. 1906. 6s.

At the opposite theological pole to Mr. McCarthy's book stands Mr. Williams' effort in theological controversy. The former divides the religious public into (a) Christians, and (b) Roman Catholics, High Churchmen, Priests, &c.; the latter into (a) Christians, and (b) Protestants (everybody from High Churchmen to Agnostics). Both writers are offensive in tone, but of the two we should award the palm to Mr. Williams. He is the plain stern man who cannot mince matters when vital principles are at stake, and who must bear witness for the truth by calling a spade a spade. Thus he speaks with withering scorn of the "so-called Tractarians"; he begins his sentences with an impatient "God bless my soul!" or "Does anyone really suppose" &c. This certainly may impress some readers; it will make others angry and set them examining his arguments; and then they will find the following specimen. Protestants have often pointed out that the position assigned to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church of Rome is somewhat difficult to reconcile with the absence of any allusion to that position, or even mention of her name, in the Epistles of the New Testament. Mr. Williams meets this by maintaining that the silence of their authors must be intentional and divinely ordered; there are things too sacred for literature. So then some Christian doctrines are of primary importance because they are mentioned constantly in the Bible, others because they are not mentioned at all; there are few doctrines that we could not prove one way or the other. Again, we do not think that Mr. Williams intends deliberately to misquote Scripture, but the following sentence is at least unfortunately expressed (p. 44):—"Before there was any Andrew or Philip (John i. 43) in His company, those who would reach the future Prophet of Galilee must come to His Mother Mary: 'Madonna, we would see Jesus (xii. 21).'" We commend this book to Protestant lecturers; it is not often that they get such a chance.

For this Week's Books see page 214.

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- "TO THE DIRECTORS OF MOTOR AUCTIONS, LTD.
- "GENTLEMEN,—We have made a very careful survey of the site now occupied by Nos. 167, 169, 171, 173, 175 and 177 Shaftesbury Avenue, and Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 New Compton Street, London, W.C., which site is held for a term of 80 years from 25th December, 1906, at a rental of £2,000 per annum, commencing from 1st November, 1907.
- "We have also perused and carefully considered the plans prepared by Mr. E. W. Coldwell and Mr. E. K. Purchase, showing the new building proposed to be erected on the site. We are of opinion that the rental value of the new building when erected in accordance with such plans will be four thousand pounds (£4,000) per annum, and the saleable value for occupation in connection with the Motor trade will be thirty thousand pounds (£30,000).
- "Yours faithfully,
- "MAY & ROWDEN."

It is believed that a lucrative Branch of the Company's business will be the repairing of Motor Vehicles of every type, and a site at present occupied by Nos. 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, and 434 Euston Road, has been acquired by the Company under a Building Agreement entitling the Company to an Underlease for seventy-five years computed from the 25th December, 1906, at a rental of a peppercorn until the 1st day of November, 1907, and thereafter of £600 per annum.

Plans of the proposed building have been prepared by Mr. E. Keynes Purchase. This building will provide ample accommodation for Workshops and Garage. The greater portion of the building fronting Euston Road is available to be let off as shops until required for the business of the Company, and it is estimated that rents amounting to £1,000 per annum could be realised from this source.

Messrs. May & Rowden have reported as follows as to the value of the Euston Road Building:—

"27 Maddox Street, London, 15th February, 1907.

"TO THE DIRECTORS OF MOTOR AUCTIONS, LTD.

"GENTLEMEN,—We have made a survey of the site of Nos. 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, and 434 Euston Road, London, N.W., which is held for a term of 75 years from 25th December, 1906, at a rental of £600 per annum, commencing from 1st November, 1907. We have inspected the plans prepared by Mr. E. K. Purchase showing the new buildings proposed to be erected thereon, which include seven shops on the Euston Road frontage, with warehouses and warehouses in the rear, and on the upper floors.

"We are of opinion that the rental value of the new buildings when erected and completed in accordance with Mr. Purchase's plans, will be two thousand three hundred pounds (£2,300) per annum, including a sum of £1,000 per annum, which we estimate will be realised by sub-letting seven shops not required for occupation by the Company, and the saleable value of the property, when completed and let, we estimate at twenty-two thousand five hundred pounds (£22,500).

"We are, Gentlemen, Yours faithfully, MAY & ROWDEN."

Tenders for the building, with special list and appliances will be invited from well-known Contractors. Mr. E. K. Purchase estimates that the sum of £33,000 will be sufficient to complete the buildings ready for occupation, and Messrs. May & Rowden value them when erected, at £52,500.

With reference to the probable earning capacity of the Company, this has been carefully worked out by the Managing Director, who has reported as follows, and the Directors consider it fair and reasonable—

SALE MART—

	Per annum
Commission at 7½ per cent. on a sale of 25 Cars per week, at an average of £500 per Car	£19,500
Garage and General Charges	1,000
Profits on the sale of accessories, on commission and otherwise	2,500
Rental of Euston Road Shops	1,000

REPAIRING WORKS—

The Profits from this Department should amount to not less than	£84,000
	2,500
	£86,500
Deduct Rents, Rates, Taxes, Insurance, Repairs, Staff, Light, Advertising, Directors' Fees, Depreciation and Contingencies	13,000
	£73,500

The above estimated profit of £73,500 would provide sufficient to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the £60,000 Ordinary Shares, absorbing £6,000, and leaving £7,500 available for further distribution between the Ordinary and Deferred Shares, in the proportion of three-fourths to the Ordinary and one-fourth to the Deferred.

In the above estimate of profits nothing has been taken into account for receipts from letting of advertisement spaces, which the Directors consider should prove a lucrative source of income.

In order that business may be commenced immediately after the Company has gone to allotment, the Directors have arranged for a tenancy of the premises Nos. 55, 57 and 59 Shaftesbury Avenue, which it is proposed to occupy temporarily until the new buildings in Shaftesbury Avenue and New Compton Street have been completed, at the annual rent of £1,500.

The Articles of Association provide to the following effect:—

81. The qualification of every Director shall be the holding of 100 of the Company's Shares. The first Directors may act before acquiring their qualifications, but they shall be bound to acquire the same within one month after their appointment or election.

82. The remuneration of the Directors shall be at the rate of £1,000 per annum, or at such greater rate (if any) as the Company in General Meeting may from time to time determine, and shall be divided among them in such proportions and in such manner as they shall resolve, or in default of agreement equally. Any Director who shall not have served during the whole period for which the remuneration is payable shall receive only an amount proportionate to the time served by him.

86. If any Director shall be called upon to go or reside abroad on the Company's business, or otherwise perform extra services, or make special exertions for any of the purposes of the Company, the Board may arrange with such Director for such special remuneration for such services, either by way of salary, commission, or the payment of a stated sum of money, as they shall think fit.

92. The remuneration of a Managing Director or Managing Directors shall from time to time be fixed by the Directors, and may be by way of salary or commission, or participation in profits, or by any or all of these modes.

133. Every Director, Manager, Secretary, and other officer or servant of the Company shall be indemnified by the Company against, and it shall be the duty of the Directors out of the funds of the Company to pay all costs, losses and expenses, which any such officer or servant may incur, or become liable to, by reason of any contract entered into, or act or deed done by him as such officer or servant, or in any way in the discharge of his duties, including travelling expenses.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—

1. An Agreement dated the 15th day of February, 1907, and made between Charles Henry Newman, of No. 123 Pall Mall, in the County of London, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, for the grant of the Underlease referred to in the first of the Reports hereinbefore set out and relating to the erection of the Building.

2. An Agreement dated the 15th day of February, 1907, and made between the same parties for the grant of the Underlease of the Site referred to in the second of the said Reports and relating to the erection of the Building.

3. An Agreement dated the 15th day of February, 1907, and made between the same parties for the temporary tenancy of Nos. 55, 57 and 59 Shaftesbury Avenue, at an annual rent of £1,500, terminable by the Company at three months' notice.

4. An Agreement dated the 15th day of February, 1907, and made between the Company of the one part and Percy Wilbraham Northey of the other part, for the appointment of the said Percy Wilbraham Northey as Managing Director for ten years at a minimum salary of £500 per annum (exclusive of his remuneration as an ordinary Director), to be increased by 5 per cent. of the net profits of the Company in any year in which a dividend of 7½ per cent. has been paid by the Company on the Ordinary Shares and an additional 5 per cent. of the net profits of the Company in any year in which the Company has paid a dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares.

James Samuel Beale, of 28 Great George Street, in the County of London, Solicitor, is interested jointly and equally with the said C. H. Newman in the premises to be comprised in the said Underleases Nos. 1 and 2. The consideration for the Leases to be granted to the said C. H. Newman is the erection of the said Buildings and the payment of the following annual rents, viz.: as to (1) £480 to 24th June, 1907; £470 to 24th June, 1908; £460 to 24th June, 1909; £450 to 24th June, 1910; and thereafter of £1,000 per annum; and as to (2) £350 per annum. The consideration for the Underleases to be granted to the Company is the erection of the Buildings and the payment of the said annual rents of £4,000 and £600. The Superior Lessors are as to (1) Sir Theodore Francis Brinckman, of No. 34 Grosvenor Street, in the County of London, Baronet; (2) The Metropolitan Railway Company.

The consideration for the lease to be granted to the said C. H. Newman of Nos. 55, 57 and 59 Shaftesbury Avenue is the payment of an annual rent of £1,100. The Superior Lessor is Joseph Mason, 27a Sackville Street, in the County of London.

The said C. H. Newman and J. S. Beale have expended upwards of the sum of £10,500 for the purchase of Lessees' and Tenants' Interests, &c., in acquiring vacant possession of the Sites.

Mr. P. W. Northey has been appointed Managing Director of the Company at a minimum salary of £500 per annum, exclusive of his remuneration as a Director, on the terms mentioned in the agreement No. 4.

The Deferred Shares have been subscribed for by the Directors and the Underwriters, the Directors having subscribed for the following Deferred Shares: J. Browne Martin, 100; H. A. Arkwright, 100; J. W. Davy, 100; S. F. Edge, 100; J. E. Hutton, 100; U. Stratton, 100; Percy W. Northey, 100.

The preliminary expenses (exclusive of commissions for underwriting) which are payable by the Company are estimated at £4,000.

Of the Shares now offered 30,000 have been underwritten at a commission of 7½ per cent., which together with an over-riding commission of 2½ per cent. will be paid by the Company, the underwriters having the right to apply for One Deferred Share for every 100 Shares underwritten.

Of these 6,000 are underwritten by the Directors of the Company, viz.: 1,000 by J. Browne Martin; 3,000 by H. A. Arkwright; 500 by J. W. Davy; 500 by S. F. Edge; 500 by J. E. Hutton, and 500 by U. Stratton.

A brokerage of 6d. per Share will be paid by the Company on all Shares allotted on Application Forms bearing brokers' stamps.

The minimum subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment is 30,000 Ordinary Shares and 500 Deferred Shares.

A Copy of the Company's Memorandum of Association is printed in the fold of the Prospectus and forms part of it.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and of the Contracts and Reports above referred to can be seen at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company, between the hours of eleven and four on the days upon which the Subscription Lists are open.

Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, in due course, for a settlement in and quotation for the Shares.

Application for Shares should be made upon the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant.

Failure to pay any future instalments on Shares allotted when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Office of the Company, or from the Bankers, Solicitors and Brokers.

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